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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

75¢

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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'Without workers, 2nd stimulus money will just be sitting idle'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

CNMI Washington Office director Jason Osborne said the Commonwealth needs relief from some labor requirements in the next stimulus package since the money cannot be spent without available workers.

Osborne, who was patched-through the governor's radio news briefing last Friday, said that his focus isn't necessarily in terms of how much second stimulus money is going to come in, but more of the kind of language the CNMI will get relief for.

"The reality is, in many cases some of the money that's going out is to create jobs in

See WORKERS on Page 4

CNMI maps out vaccine plan

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The CNMI has submitted its interim vaccination plan for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Warren Villagomez, chairman of the COVID-19 Task Force, feels confident that the plan is thorough and ready to be carried out.

According to Villagomez, the plan was put together by the task force, Office of

See VACCINE on Page 4

PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST

2020 Green Flash Dive Underwater Pumpkin Carving participants must show creativity, uniqueness, craftsmanship, and originality in their pumpkin carving entry at the 2nd Annual Green Flash Dive Underwater Pumpkin Carving held last Saturday at Laulau Bay.

RUSS WILCOX

Story on Page 2

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Oct. 25, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	3,968	173	4,141
Recovered	2,398	105	2,503
Active	1,396	173	1,569
Deaths	68	1	69
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			63,107

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	88	0	88
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			19,345*

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

IN NMI BAR ASSOCIATION EVALUATION

Inos, Naraja, Govendo get above 'acceptable' average rating

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice Perry B. Inos, Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja, and Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth

Naraja

Govendo

Inos

L. Govendo all received above "acceptable" total average performance evaluation rating from the CNMI Bar Association.

CNMI Bar Association president Charity

See INOS on Page 4

IPI opposes Pacific Rim's bid to auction off its assets

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is opposing Pacific Rim Land Development LLC's request for an order authorizing the contractor to auction off IPI's gaming machines

See IPI on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Traditional Thai Massage wants to assure the public that its massages are completely safe.
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Thailand's government and the country's protesters appear no closer to resolving differences.
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LIFE & STYLE
Several teenagers spray graffiti on a piece of art outside one of Berlin's most famous museums.
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From left, best costume second place winner Karie Comstock, Green Flash Dive owner Rhea McDoulett, underwater carving second place winner Madge Gai, first place winner Conall Hartig, third place winner Jon Ball, Green Flash Dive owner Joey McDoulett and Matt Epstein, first place best Halloween costume

RUSS WILCOX

Local

Hartig wins underwater pumpkin carving contest

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Sixteen-year-old Conall Hartig won first place at the 2nd Annual Green Flash Dive Underwater Pumpkin Carving last Saturday in Lau Lau Bay, besting 14 other entries by carving a pumpkin in a form of a shark, complete with sharp teeth, gills, and fins, which ticked all the judges' boxes in creativity, visual impact, craftmanship, and abiding with the "underwater Halloween" theme.

Second runner-up was Madge Gai with an environmental theme, a turtle trapped in plastic; and third place went to Jon Ball, who carved a shark and CNMI latte stone on his pumpkin.

As his prize, Hartig took home a Scubapro regulator, Gai won a pair of Scubapro jet fins, and Ball got a pair of Scubapro twin jet fins.

Green Flash Dive owner and scuba instructor Joey McDoulett said the number of participants this year was up. "We had 15 divers and entries. Everyone had a good time and many who were helping did it for free and that is always good. We will try to make it bigger and better next year," he said.

"I think all the entries were fantastically creative. …We feel bad about the loss of tourists and tax dollars but we do enjoy the chance to see and explore our uninhibited dive spots as local divers get first dibs," he said.

First-time participants Dr. Ronald Snyder, headmaster at Saipan International School, and Federal Emergency Management Agency Recovery Office director and dive enthusiast Sheryl Cochran said that they will do it again next year.

"Last year, I was away. …I couldn't participate so I was bummed," said Snyder, "and so I am happy I could do it this year. It was great and had a lot of learning. …I didn't realize how much the water would soften the pumpkins so mine experienced quite a good deal of collapse underwater but it was a lot of fun and a blast watching everyone what they can come up with."

"It was fun! It was my first time doing it and I had a good time," Cochran said.

Assistant public defender Karie Comstock, who competed last year and won first place, felt nerves kick in by doing it again. "I competed last year and there was some pressure, but the other thing is, I look back at last year, I didn't know any single person here and didn't know how to get out of the dive site. This year, I know everybody, which is a big improvement," she said

"With the pandemic this year, our local dive groups really came together with doing a lot more of local diving. I will definitely join again next year," she added.

For extra challenge, diver participants were also required to wear Halloween costumes. The winners are Matt Epstein as "Ol Greg" in first place and Karie Comstock won second place as the "Shark."

Dive couple Mica and Sheryl Cochran work on their respective pumpkins at the 2nd Annual Green Flash Dive Underwater Pumpkin Carving held last Saturday at Laulau Bay.

RUSS WILCOX

How to avoid PHISHING

What is phishing?

Phishing is a fraudulent attempt to steal your personal information such as usernames, passwords, account numbers, social security number, and other important information.

What are some red flags I can use to identify a phishing attempt?

- YOU RECEIVE AN EMAIL FROM SOMEONE OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
- THE EMAIL CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION BY CLICKING ON A HYPERLINK.
- THERE ARE MISSPELLINGS.
- YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION IS NEEDED.

What do I do if I come across a phishing email?

- DO NOT CLICK ON ANY HYPERLINKS.
- DO NOT TRANSFER MONEY TO PEOPLE UNKNOWN TO YOU.
- DO NOT ENTER ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION.
  - Contact the Bank immediately if you have already entered personal information.
- DELETE THE MESSAGE.

For more information on how to stay safe from phishing, visit our Fraud Information Center at www.bankofguam.com.

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CEC designates polling sites for Nov. 3 general elections

The Commonwealth Election Commission has already designated the polling sites on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota for the Nov. 3 general elections.

As this developed, Governor's COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez disclosed Friday that he is looking at elevating the level of precautionary measures that need to be adhered to at polling sites during election day.

On Saipan, the designated polling sites are the Koblerville Youth Center, Dandan Middle School, Saipan Southern High School, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Oleai Elementary School, Garapan Elementary School, Tanapag Youth Center, San Roque Elementary School, the Legislature, and Chacha Oceanview Middle School.

On Tinian, the designated polling place is the gymnasium. On Rota it's the Northern Marianas College.

CEC executive director Julita A. Villagomez enumerated the designated polling sites over the weekend.

Speaking at a radio news briefing last Friday, Villagomez said the health standards that were set when the COVID-19 pandemic started and until Nov. 3 will not be loosened. Villagomez said actually he is looking at adding more personnel on Nov. 3 to make sure they have a person in each area voting site to monitor the safety measures in place.

"We need to stay on top of this and we need to pay attention to all the details because we're also watching what's happening down south," Villagomez said, referring to Guam's pandemic situation. "We want to make sure that everyone is safe. I hope that the general public understands."

He said there are different strains of positive cases that they are seeing as well, so there might be some slight delays in the screening process as more questionnaires will be given to voters and there may be added layers to the health protocols. "So these are the things that we want to continue to share with the public and bring education to them and expect the unusual for this election at the polling places," he said.

Where to vote during the Nov. 3 election

On Saipan:

- Precinct 1A-San Antonio (Koblerville Youth Center)
- Precinct 1B-San Vicente (Dandan Middle School)
- Precinct 1C Koblerville (Southern High School)
- Precinct 2 Chalan Kanoa (Joeten Kiyu Library)
- Precinct 3A San Jose (Oleai Elementary School)
- Precinct 3B Garapan (Garapan Elementary School)
- Precinct 4A Tanapag (Tanapag Youth Center)
- Precinct 4B San Roque (San Roque School)
- Precinct 4C Capitol Hill (Legislature)
- Precinct 5 Kagman (Chacha Oceanview Middle School)

On Tinian

- Tinian Gymnasium

On Rota

- NMC *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Free virtual 'Falls Prevention' session on Oct. 29

The Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program will be hosting its third and final live Zoom session on falls prevention from 6pm to 7pm on Thursday, Oct. 29. The session is free and open to the elderly in Guam and throughout Micronesia, as well as their family members and caregivers and students in the health, social work, or related fields.

"One in four older adults experience a fall every year. Though common, there are many ways to prevent falls, increasing the safety and independence of older adults," said Margaret Hattori-Uchima, dean of the UOG School of Health and co-project director of the Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program.

Participants will learn about common misconceptions about falling, risk factors that increase falls, and strategies to reduce falls. They will also be guided through the National Council on Aging's Falls Free Check-up, learn what to do in the event of a fall, and have an opportunity at the end for a Q&A with Hattori-Uchima, who is a registered nurse who holds a doctorate in nursing.

The session aligns with Falls Prevention Week, promoted by the National Council on Aging in September to spread knowledge, awareness, and resources about the risk of falling and how to prevent falls.

Those interested may register at http://bit.ly/FP102920. For more information, call (671) 735-2652 or email uog.gwep@triton.uog.edu. ***(PR)***

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Candidates at a Glance

The Saipan Tribune will be coming out with a supplement,

#voteCNMI

in October 29 featuring candidates in the November election.

Spread your message to reach the people WHO VOTE.

Reserve your spot now!

For more information, please call 235-8747 and look for **Beth**, **Donna** or **Alyssa**

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IT&E restores cable that was cut Saturday

Internet and landlines services in Marpi and San Roque were affected Saturday, Oct. 24, 2020, as a result of a cable cut made by Jaeda Construction, a Docomo Pacific subcontractor. IT&E crews were immediately dispatched to the scene to repair the damaged cables that delivered services to a few hundred customers. IT&E technicians were able to repair the cable and swiftly bring services back up in order minimize the inconvenience and impact to its customers.

IT&E would like to remind all contractors to call 611 prior to any excavation work so a technician can be present to identify buried cables. Also note, there are roadside signs that warn contractors where the buried cables are. ***(PR)***

Jaeda Construction accidentally cuts an IT&E line that provides internet and landlines services to Marpi and San Roque. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

VACCINE

From Page 1

Homeland Security, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. He said the CDC is now reviewing the plan.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña and CHCC chief operation officer Subroto Banerji said in a previous interview that any COVID-19 vaccine that will be made available to the CNMI will be distributed in three phases: first will be health care workers and other front-liners; the second will be for people who are most vulnerable and children; and then lastly, for everyone else. Banerji had said the overall goal is to push out the vaccine into the community.

In order to do that, informing the community will be key, Villagomez had said, because they want to make people be aware, and they want to do plenty of promotions and marketing to be ready when the COVID-19 vaccine is already available.

As for regular flights coming into the CNMI, Villagomez stated that he doesn't recommend having more flights coming to the CNMI right now and he doesn't even recommend United Airlines resuming its regular daily flights at this time, since the CNMI's COVID-19 situation is currently "under control" right now. He said that the entry point protocol testing will not change until there's a vaccine.

"In order for us to stay at this number, to stay at this level of safety, I don't foresee promoting additional flights. This three-times-a-week flight is already taxing to our resources, the laboratory at CHCC, as well as in making sure that you have good quality assurance, quality control on your test results that are coming out, as well as our quarantine sites," said Villagomez.

ACS turnover to CHCC

According to the governor's authorized representative, Patrick Guerrero, the Alternative Care Site at Kanoa Resort will be turned over to CHCC this Wednesday.

With the CNMI's continued low number of COVID-19 cases, this made building up the care site to its full potential easier on the administration's side.

"In the very earliest stages, we were rushing to get something up in within 60 to 90 days, and we did put up the basic structure," said Guerrero.

At the start, they planned to use oxygen cylinder tanks, which is the quickest way to bring in oxygen into that building if they were to have people in patients on ventilators. Today, they have had more time and are now looking at supplying an oxygen machine at the ACS to then provide oxygen through a plumbing system.

Guerrero echoed Villagomez that, while they're preparing to open the ACS, they're also making sure that they "don't let their guard down."

Guerrero acknowledged that the ACS would've not been possible if not for CHCC, Muña, CHCC director of Medical Affairs Dr. John Tudela, Office of Homeland Security, front-liners, and Kanoa Resort, TanHoldings president Jerry Tan, and TanHoldings vice president for Corporate Business Development Alex Sablan.

IPI

From Page 1

and vehicles, saying this will harm the casino company.

The more viable option, IPI lawyer Michael Dotts said, is to have an IPI investor deposit nearly $6 million in a CNMI bank to secure the money for Pacific Rim.

In its motion submitted to the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Dotts said that allowing Pacific Rim to auction off IPI's gaming machines and vehicles would cause irreparable harm to the company.

With IPI's gaming equipment, Dotts said that auctioning them off means they would likely be sold at only a fraction of their cost because casinos are closed worldwide, and there is no market for the equipment.

Based on IPI's audited books, the gaming equipment is valued at more than $20 million, but the best estimate is that it would sell for $2 million, Dotts said. Additionally, no one in the CNMI but IPI can legally own the gaming equipment so they would need to be sent off island, which would make it difficult for IPI to reopen and IPI would have to buy all of its gaming equipment again.

As for IPI's vehicles, Dotts said that, besides the fact that many of its vehicles are still being used daily by IPI's remaining employees, it would be extremely difficult for the company to replace them, both financially and logistically.

On top of that, Dotts said IPI vehicles may be worth about $6 million based on IPI's audited books, but, a more realistic estimate of what will be obtained if they are auctioned is about $300,000.

As for the sale of IPI's heavy equipment, Dotts said it could result in the delay of construction and possibly render the casino's completion impossible. Replacing the heavy equipment will be particularly difficult as it is logistically difficult to ship such equipment to Saipan, Dotts said.

IPI offers a "better" alternative, according to Dotts. IPI is now requesting the federal court to allow its investor, Pacific International Property Management LLC, to deposit $5,599,975 in a CNMI bank to secure the payment to Pacific Rim. With this alternative, Dotts said, Pacific Rim is fully secured and no more harm needs to be done to IPI's business in the process of Pacific Rim executing on its judgment.

IPI has appealed the judgment so it is also asking the court to enter an order restricting the bank account designated to secure Pacific Rim.

Dotts said that, should IPI prevail on the appeal, the funds can be released back to the investor, and should Pacific Rim prevail on the appeal, then all restrictions placed on the funds can be lifted and Pacific Rim will be fully paid.

"IPI now has an investor who has placed on deposit $5,599,975.00 in a CNMI bank and who is willing to allow this account to be used or transferred to secure payment of the judgment pending appeal," Dotts said.

Pacific Rim recently moved the court for an order for turnover, assignment, and judicial sale of IPI's gaming machines and heavy equipment and vehicles for the purpose of reducing the judgment amount entered against the casino.

Pacific Rim said the balance due on the judgment is not less than $5,525,363.98.

INOS

From Page 1

Hodson informed association members and the public Saturday of the results of their recent evaluation of judicial candidates Inos, Naraja, and Govendo who are up for retention election at this Nov. 3 election.

Hodson said the evaluation was conducted according to the Bar Association's "resolution to establish and implement and procedure for evaluation of judicial nominees and candidates for judicial retention."

Many CNMI voters have already been cast their votes on who will remain in office via early voting and will continue voting up to election day on Nov. 3.

Inos received a 3.55 average rating, while Naraja got 3.65 and Govendo got 3.37.

"Acceptable," which is equivalent to a total average of 3 means the magistrate meets minimum standards of performance. "Good" or a total average of 4 means the magistrate often exceeds minimum standards of performance. The other ratings are excellent, deficient, and unacceptable.

"Excellent" or a total average of 5 means the magistrate consistently exceeds minimum standards of performance. "Deficient" or a total average of 2 means the magistrate does not always meet minimum standards of performance. "Unacceptable" or a total average of 1 means the magistrate seldom meets minimum standards of performance.

In this survey, Inos' highest rating was 4 for experience, integrity, judicial temperament, and courtesy to litigants, counsel, and court personnel. His lowest rating is 1.9 for public disciplinary sanctions and 3 for judicial management skills.

Naraja's highest rating was 4.4 for judicial temperament, and his lowest was 2.1 for public disciplinary sanctions and 3.3 for control over judicial proceedings and quality of judicial opinions.

Govendo's highest rating was 4 for experience, and his lowest was 1.5 for public disciplinary sanctions, and 3 for judicial temperament.

Under the public disciplinary sanctions criteria, 18 respondents had no opinion for Govendo and Inos, while 17 had no opinion for Naraja.

Hodson said the public disciplinary sanctions criteria is in reference to when a judge or justice is publicly disciplined or admonished.

"There are rules governing judicial conduct that exist 'to protect the public from improper conduct or behavior of judges, to preserve the integrity of the judicial process, to maintain public confidence in the Judiciary, to create a greater awareness of proper judicial behavior, and to provide for the fair and expeditious disposition of complaints of judicial misconduct,'" Hodson said.

The evaluations rated the following criteria: experience, integrity, professional competence, judicial temperament, service to law/contribution to justice, preparation, attentiveness, control over proceedings, judicial management skills, courtesy, public disciplinary sanctions, and quality of opinions.

CNMI Bar Association executive director Peonie C. Cabrera said there are 175 active members, of which 112 are on island.

Cabrera said that, of the 33 submissions, Naraja was only one who got evaluations from all 33. She said Inos and Govendo got 32 evaluations.

In the November 2014 election, Naraja and Govendo also each received a similar average rating of 3.3 or above the "acceptable" total average rating, based on the CNMI Bar Association's evaluation of their performances on the bench.

In that 2014 evaluation, Naraja's highest rating was 3.8 for courtesy, his lowest was 2.08 for professional competence.

Govendo's highest rating was 3.9 for experience, his lowest was 2.8 for judicial temperament.

In 2002, the Bar Association established a mechanism by which nominees for judicial appointment or retention may be evaluated by the Association.

Associate Justice John A. Manglona and his wife, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, were the first to obtain an impressive total average "good" rating among the magistrates who underwent performance evaluation by the CNMI Bar Association. The couple obtained the "good" rating during the performance evaluation in 2007.

WORKERS

From Page 1

the states in terms of infrastructure development," he said.

As an example, he pointed out that there's money going out for housing, which the CNMI just got through a Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery action plan amounting to $244 million.

"But it really is kind of, can we get some language in there that provides relief on some of the labor requirements [required] under the Workforce Act as well as the touchback provision, as well as potentially an extension of the CW [program] beyond the current number, or at least some relief on the scale down aspects of it," Osborne said.

In the long term, he said, that's what the business community in the CNMI needs—some sort of assurances that the Commonwealth is going to get back tourism and expand its business sector.

He said that, within the next stimulus bill, one thing that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has been specific about is that the CNMI needs relief on some of these regulations. "The money is great, and the money can be put to good use. But if we can't spend it because we don't have the workers, then it's just sitting there and nothing's done with it," Osborne said.

The director said he and the Office of the Governor's focus right now is to continue to work with the Department of Homeland Security, the White House, and the U.S. Department of Labor to try and get some more relief as best as they can on the CW issue, particularly the touchback provision.

Osborne said they did get an extension of that touchback provision due to the governor's efforts. "We got somewhat of a waiver extending the provision until 2023, which saved us quite a bit and saved businesses quite a big headache," he said.

He added that they are also trying to push out some more Economic Development Administration funding so they can get some more money into the CNMI.

New laws to increase veterans' health care access

Two veterans' bills —S. 785 and H.R. 1812—that include amendments introduced by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) were signed into law last week.

Sablan's proposal to give all veterans health care for one year after they separate from active service will be the subject of a strategic plan by the Department of Veterans Affairs under terms of the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019. And the VA will be required to report to Congress on how it will provide equivalent services in the Marianas and other areas that do not have a Vet Center as part of the now-enacted Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act.

"The enactment of these two laws is good news for veterans everywhere and one more step toward greater health care accessibility for veterans in the Marianas," Sablan said. "The VA is now required by law to take concrete action to expand health care services to newly discharged veterans and to veterans living in areas, like the Marianas, that do not have Vet Centers."

Sablan originally offered his proposal to provide all veterans one year of health care after discharge in H.R. 5024, which he introduced last November. Senate Republicans resisted immediate implementation and a compromise was worked out for the strategic planning requirement to be included in the Mental Health Care Improvement Act, S.785.

"Providing one year of health care after discharge would greatly help veterans and their families make the transition to civilian life," Sablan said. "By removing the worry of health care, they are able to focus on their next steps in education, employment, and housing, and ultimately make the transition successfully."

Enactment of the Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act, H.R. 1812, is another step in Sablan's continuing work to upgrade services to veterans in the Marianas. Even though the Department of Veterans Affairs has not been willing to open a full-fledged Vet Center in the Marianas and in other more remote locations nationwide, the agency is now required to explain to Congress how it will provide equivalent services to veterans in those areas.

"Guam Vet Center staff periodically conduct outreach for our veterans, but our Marianas veterans deserve more frequent and regular access to the full range of Vet Center services," Sablan said.

The Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act provides more servicemembers access to Vet Center services—specifically, readjustment counseling and other mental health care—which underscores the need for the department to explain how they will make sure Marianas veterans are treated equally. Those now eligible under the law include those who served in the Reserve, National Guard, or Coast Guard who never deployed but served during emergency situations in the wake of disaster, civil disorder, or in support of drug interdiction operations.

Still teed up for action in this Congress is a provision Sablan included in the House-passed fiscal year 2021 VA funding bill report that mandates an assessment for increasing VA staff and establishing a Vet Center in the Marianas. ***(PR)***

Guam to be added to Hawaii Trusted Traveler Program

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Guam will be added to Hawaii's Pre-Travel Testing Program, enabling Guam travelers to bypass Hawaii's mandatory quarantine order under certain conditions.

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero confirmed this development after her phone conversation with Hawaii Gov. David Ige on Friday morning.

Hawaii recently opened travel to residents and visitors through the Pre-Travel Testing Program, under which travelers who, upon entry into the state, provide written confirmation from a state-approved COVID-19 testing facility of a negative test result from a test administered to the traveler within 72 hours from the final leg of departure, will be able to bypass Hawaii's mandatory quarantine order.

There are currently 16 laboratory partners in Hawaii's program, including the Diagnostic Laboratory Services.

"After speaking with Governor Ige, we both agreed that the Department of Public Health and Social Services' Guam Public Health Laboratory is qualified for their Trusted Traveler program and meets the standard for inclusion," said Leon Guerrero. "Guam's Public Health Director, Art San Agustin, is coordinating with Hawaii health officials to ensure our travelers en route to Hawaii who meet the proper test criteria are welcomed into the program."

Both the GPHL and DLS are Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments-certified. Additionally, the GPHL is a biosafety two-level laboratory, holds a certificate from the International Air Transport Association, and has performed polymerase chain reaction testing on dengue for the Micronesia region since 2015. ***(PR)***

$5.7M Compact Impact funds for Guam school leaseback program

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of the Interior has released $5,737,500 in fiscal year 2021 Compact Impact funds for the Guam Department of Education School Leaseback Program.

"Through the Compact Impact funding program, the Guam Department of Education's School Leaseback Program continues to receive important and ongoing support," said Doug Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior assistant secretary, Insular and International Affairs. "This support is critical to the Government of Guam, especially as it continues to feel the impacts on its education system from migration allowed for under the Compacts of Free Association."

In 2006, Iron Bridge Capital partnered with the Government of Guam to design, build, finance, and leaseback four new public schools—the Okkodo High School, the Astumbo Middle School, the Liguan Elementary School, and the Adacao Elementary School. The schools are currently owned by the Guam Education Financing Foundation, an Iron Bridge affiliate, and special-purpose, non-profit entity that has agreed to maintain and insure the schools for 20 years, after which point ownership will revert to the Guam Department of Education.

The Guam Department of Education has been using a portion of its annual Compact Impact funds provided through the Office of Insular Affairs to support the public school system, including the Guam School Leaseback Program, since 2005.

The $5.7 million in Compact Impact funds are part of the $30 million in Compact Impact funds that are provided under U.S. Public Law 108-188 and distributed across several jurisdictions—American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and Hawaii. The Compact Impact funds are meant to help defray costs associated with increased demands placed on health, education, or infrastructure related to such services provided to legal migrants from the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau to these U.S. jurisdictions. Under U.S. Public Law 108-188, the availability of mandatory Compact Impact funds through the Office of Insular Affairs will cease after fiscal year 2023. ***(PR)***

PAX

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Kagman, Saipan
For more information please call: (670) 235-8572 / (670) 287-5810

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-21-003

A&E DESIGN SERVICES FOR WEST SAN JOSE HOMESTEAD (TINIAN) WATERLINE PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for A&E Design Services for West San Jose Homestead (Tinian) Waterline Project.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Proposal & One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in separate sealed envelopes marked *"CUC-RFP-21-003, A&E Design Services for West San Jose Homestead (Tinian) Waterline Project"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than November 25, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 9, 2020** to **Manny B. Sablan**, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Acting Water/Wastewater Chief Engineer via email address larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior, via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-20-027

ISLEY WATER TANK FENCE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from contractors for the replacement of the existing Isley Water Tank security fence in Isley Field, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **October 5, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-027 *Isley Water Tank Fence Replacement Project"***, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 27, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 9, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, at email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Yvonne Ogumoro, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer at email yvonne.ogumoro@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician, Senior at email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Prelim hearing waived for woman who allegedly assaulted cop

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman who was charged with assault and battery for allegedly assaulting a Department of Public Safety officer has waived her preliminary hearing.

Tenela W. Peter, 20, who is charged with assault and battery waived her preliminary hearing that was scheduled for Wednesday. Peter is scheduled to be arraigned on Oct. 27 at 9am.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan granted Peter's request to be released on her own recognizance but imposed on her a 10pm to 6am curfew.

Peter

Peter was represented by assistant public defender Jean Nogues; assistant attorney general Erin Toolan appeared for the government.

Peter was arrested after allegedly assaulting a police officer while she was heavily intoxicated in the early hours of Oct. 11. According to court documents, Peter was seen by a police officer in the middle of the road shouting. As the police vehicle approached, she shouted profanities at the police officer and hit the passenger door of the vehicle.

Peter then allegedly tried to fight with the officer. The officer noted Peter had a strong odor of alcoholic beverages emanating from her. The police officer asked Peter to calm down but she allegedly rushed toward the officer instead and hits the officer with open hands.

The officer sustained scratches on the neck and forehead.

Peter initially resisted arrest but she was eventually subdued with the help of another police officer and her aunt.

2 companies partner up with TTT for ticket sales

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gearing up for the Tasi to Table Inc. and Saipan Fisherman Association's "Reel in the Holidays" raffle, two companies have offered help in the distribution of ticket sales for the event on Dec. 12, 2020.

Tasi to Table Inc., the non-profit organization, has teamed up with 4Ever CNMI in San Jose and Fishing Tackle & Sporting in Susupe to sell tickets that offer valuable prizes during the raffle that will take place at the Smiling Cover Marina.

The tickets are being sold for $100 each for the "Reel in the Holidays" raffle. With this ticket, participants will be able to win the grand prize, a 16-foot Morning Star boat package that is sponsored by Coral Reed Marine Center Guam, Mercury Marine, and Morning Star Boats. The Morning Star 16-foot boat comes with a 60 Command Thrust 4-Stroke engine, trailer, a VHF handheld radio, four life jackets, and an emergency flare set.

According to Wayne Pangelinan, TTT vice president, the SFA is considering holding its mahi-mahi derby on the day of the raffle. As of Oct. 21, there was no word yet whether they will push through with this, to coincide with the raffle on Dec. 12.

Last March, SFA announced the cancellation of the annual Mahi Mahi Fishing Derby, which was scheduled for March 28, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The sponsors for the "Reel in the Holidays" event are the Coral Reef Marine Center Guam, Morning Star Boats, Mercury Marine Outboard, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Marpac, IT&E, Mobil Oil Marianas, Roil Soil Clothing, and 4Ever CNMI!

History Talks: Japanese colonialism in the CNMI

Pacific Historic Parks, in partnership with the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, would like to invite the public to join us LIVE on Zoom on Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020, at 9am for *Islands Too Beautiful For Their Names: Rethinking Legacies of Japanese Colonialism and WWII in the Northern Mariana Islands* with Dr. Jessica Jordan.

Jordan

Registration is free, at https://bit.ly/PHP_HTSregistration_DrJordanIslandsTooBeautiful.

Although indigenous Northern Mariana Islanders used to be Japanese subjects, these experiences are not well represented in most history sources. Instead, Japanese colonialism tends to be interpreted as a dark period out of which the Americans liberated the islands and islanders during World War II. But when viewed from the perspective of everyday life, the transition from Japanese to U.S. rule broke apart islander-settler families, disavowed or destroyed accomplishments islanders made during the Japanese era, and cast suspicion upon local public expressions of affinity for anything "Japanese." This presentation will review these and other examples of how islanders have remembered their own lives during these years, versus how Japanese and U.S. colonial records have represented them.

This presentation's speaker, Dr. Jessica Jordan, was born in Yap and grew up on Saipan in the CNMI. She is now an assistant professor at the USAF Air University where she teaches about Asia Pacific regional issues relevant to U.S. national security. She has a Ph.D. in history, and her research draws upon documented records as well as interviews with local Mariana Island senior citizens (*man'amko*) who grew up during the Japanese colonial era (1914-1944). The presentation will cover the indigenous Northern Mariana Islanders who used to be Japanese subjects and their experiences that are not well represented in most history sources.

This project is made possible by support from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, a non-profit, private corporation with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the federal CARES Act. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this grant opportunity do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information on this event, contact Jovannalyn Mafnas at email address: jmafnas@pacifichistoricparks.org. ***(PHP)***

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ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- The Estate of JESUS TILIPAO TEREGEYO, Deceased, Defendant.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0231

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on July 16, 2020, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:
Lot 011 G 1097, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 20 dated December 3, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 93-4288, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Total area of the property:
843 square meters, more or less

Known encumbrances:
None material

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, November 13, 2020, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 6th day of October, 2020:
/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Rota SRS public comment period extended to Nov. 20

The public comment period for the National Park Service's Rota Special Resource Study has been extended to Nov. 20, 2020. In addition, the National Park Service has prepared a Frequently Asked Questions document to address the most common questions we have heard from you.

The extended comment period will allow you more time to review the study's preliminary findings and management concepts, explore the FAQs, and share your thoughts with us.

We invite you to learn more about the project and send us your thoughts, comments, and information through one of the following ways:

■ Online, under "Open For Comment": https://parkplanning.nps.gov/rotastudy

■ E-mail the study team at Rota_Study@nps.gov

■ Mail:

National Park Service

Planning and Environmental Compliance Branch

Attention: Rota Special Resource Study

333 Bush Street, Suite 500

San Francisco, CA 94104

For more information, visit the project website, https://parkplanning.nps.gov/rotastudy, for details, updates, virtual meeting presentation slides, FAQs, and to submit comments. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Saipan Community School's first quarter honor roll for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

SCS 1st quarter honor roll

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

4.00 (No grade below a "A")

- Jeong Bin Park-6th grade
- Soledad T. Sablan-8th grade

"A" HONOR ROLL

3.50 to 3.99 (No grades below a "B")

- Jihyo Kim-6th grade
- David Park-6th grade
- Byul An-6th grade
- Joshua Yoo-6th grade
- Abbie Kim-7th grade
- Lola Guerrero-7th grade
- Andy Kim-7th grade
- Sheryne Yang-7th grade
- Jie Huang-7th grade
- Tae Seong Kim-7th grade
- Leighton Palacios-7th grade
- Alfred Baek-7th grade
- Mikaela Rabago-8th grade
- Matthew Hanes-8th grade
- Jacky Zhen-8th grade
- Dwight Crisostomo-8th grade
- Sophia Brasuell-8th grade

"B" HONOR ROLL

3.00 to 3.49 (No grades below a "C")

- Joan Song-6th grade
- David Ye-6th grade
- Jian Chun-6th grade
- Hannah Chae-6th grade
- Drei Camacho-7th grade
- Timothy Hanes-7th grade
- Joanne Yoon-7th grade

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 20th birthday to Tyler Villacrusis! We love you and God bless you always. Greetings come from your Celis and Delos Santos families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

RFQ21-GOV-003

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Public Assistance (PA) Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors for the Supply of Materials, Labor & Equipment for the Repairs/Renovation and/or New Construction of Public Facilities as a result of Typhoon Mangkut and Yutu (FEMA DR-4396-MP and FEMA DR-4404-MP) for the islands of Saipan and Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The project package and scope of work will be available on Thursday, October 15, 2020 at the Governor's Public Assistance Office, MH I Building Marina Heights Business Park, Saipan. **A MANDATORY Pre-Proposal meeting is scheduled on Thursday, November 5, 2020, at 10:00am at the Governor's Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP**. Questions regarding the Request for Proposals must be submitted in writing to Mr. Patrick Guerrero, Public Assistance Officer, facsimile to (670) 664-2417 or email pguerrero@pa.gov.mp no later than 4 p.m., ChST, November 6, 2020.

The total proposal length shall not exceed 15 pages in length. Note, a firm that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications & Experience in Construction including Firm's Profile	30%
2. Work load and resources to accomplish work	30%
3. Past performance with the CNMI Government on similar projects	15%
4. Project and/or Management Approach	15%
5. Visual examples of previous works	10%

Performance time for completion of the Repair/Renovation and/or New Construction will be dependent on the type of project. Liquidated damages will be assessed and shall be the greater of (i) Two Hundred Dollars (US$200.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by the number of calendar days of the contract time, the contract time and contract price being determined at the time of the assessment of liquidated damages for each and every day beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top Five (5) ranked firms. The Public Assistance Office may elect to retain all of the top 5 firms. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 70-30.3-245 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Depending on the number of projects, the PA Office will request each firm to submit a price quotation for these projects, and selection will be based on the lowest cost.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **RFQ21-GOV-003, Construction Services** For proposers within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, November 16, 2020. Proposers located outside the CNMI shall obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent form that is provided in this RFQ. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, November 16, 2020 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to a.magofna@dof.gov.mp. Note that failure to submit this Notice of Intent Form will be cause for rejection of proposal (This only applies for proposers located outside of the CNMI). For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, November 16, 2020, and must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than November 25, 2020. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Notice of Re-opening of the Distribution of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)-COVID Program Pre-Applications

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) wishes to announce the re-opening of the distribution of pre-applications of the ESG-COVID program made possible through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. As stated on the Office of the Governor's Press Release, dated July 19, 2020, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the CNMI a total allocation of $1,090,630 in ESG-COVID funds to provide financial assistance for CNMI households, specifically for rental assistance, rental arrears, utility allowance, and security and utility deposits. The assistance period is for a total of (12) months and will be on a first come, first serve basis. NMHC has allocated 25% of the grant for the elderly and disabled population. The purpose of the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)-COVID program is to assist individuals and families quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness, as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic (e.g. furloughed, reduction of hours, living in substandard conditions which poses an increased risk of exposure to the disease, etc.)
- Must be a U.S. citizen or qualified alien
- Must meet the income limits (less than 50% of the area median income). See FY 2020 HUD income limits below
- Must be literally homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless and have no other housing options

Application Steps

- Pick up a pre-application at the NMHC Offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota or print an application made available on the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net.
  Link:https://nmhcgov.net/resources/files/2020%20ESG%20Pre-application%20V2%20updated%2006_29_20.pdf
- Once the pre-application is completed and submitted to the NMHC Offices (you may submit at the front office or in the Drop Box located in front of the building), the case workers will assess the pre-application and determine whether the applicant is eligible for the program. If the applicant is eligible, the case worker will schedule an appointment and immediately notify the applicant on the date and time of intake. If an applicant is deemed ineligible, a notification will be sent to the applicant.
- The case worker will inform the eligible applicant of the next steps once the application process has been completed.

If you have already applied for the ESG-COVID program, the NMHC case workers are currently assessing your pre-applications and you will be contacted for the next steps. On August 21, 2020, NMHC stopped taking pre-applications in order to conduct the screening of a significant number of pre-applications and also to conduct case management. ***NMHC is reopening the pre-application process. You may pick up an HESG pre-application at the NMHC, Saipan Central Office, Rota Field Office, and Tinian Field office starting October 28, 2020. The distribution of pre-applications will end on November 30, 2020.*** Should you have any questions or need special accommodations, please contact Zenie Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, Tricia Tenorio, Planner, or Sweetielyn Sokau, Planning Assistant, at the 234-6866/7689/9447.

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Restore faith in COVID-19 vaccines

Pfizer officials announced on Oct. 16 that the pharmaceutical giant won't be ready to apply for FDA approval of its COVID-19 vaccine until the third week of November.

That means there will be no miracle Election Day vaccine—which should assuage fears that this potentially lifesaving development might be prematurely rushed past scientific protocols for political ends.

A credible vaccine is needed, especially with coronavirus cases once again trending upward across the country.

However, to prevent the spread of the potentially deadly virus, any vaccine must not only be safe and effective, it must also be widely adopted. That's not guaranteed given the swirl of fear and misinformation concerning the record pace of Operation Warp Speed, the federal effort to accelerate development, production and distribution of COVID-19 treatments and vaccines.

Only about half the people responding to a recent Pew Research Center survey said they would definitely or probably get a coronavirus vaccine if it were available today. That's down from 72% in May. More than three-fourths of the survey respondents said they believed things were moving too fast: That a vaccine could be approved before its safety and effectiveness were fully understood.

Scientific and public health leaders are watching to make sure that doesn't happen. Earlier this month, the University of Washington co-hosted with Johns Hopkins University a virtual symposium to discuss the scientific integrity of vaccine development.

Their goal is to ensure that potential vaccines are thoroughly and ethically tested, that trials are inclusive and vaccines, once manufactured, are equitably distributed to slow and eventually end the pandemic. It is reassuring to know that independent scientists, including world-class experts here in the Puget Sound region, are on the job.

Pfizer's announcement takes the air out of election-related rumors, but more must be done to help reassure the nervous public that the accelerated timeline is not being pushed at the expense of safety.

Rarely has scientific development been the subject of such intense public scrutiny or skepticism. That demands unprecedented transparency and public education about scientific processes, too.

(c) 2020 *The Seattle Times*

What I hope to accomplish

Hafa adai and *tirow,* people of Saipan: I am running for a seat on the Board of Education, and you surely want to know why. You are thinking, "What is it he hopes to accomplish?"

The answer is to be found in who I am as a person and my experience in the nearly 50 years I have been a resident of the Northern Marianas since I first set foot on Saipan on June 30, 1974, as a Peace Corps volunteer.

My work from 1974 to 1976 (as the people of the Northern Mariana Islands negotiated their transition to self-government) was in community development at the grassroots level in the villages on Saipan.

Woodruff

After that it has been my privilege to be a part of the island's great adventure of becoming what it is today, participating in various capacities in both the public and private sectors—as a manager in the hospitality, import, wholesale, and retail industries; political and business consultant; writer; entrepreneur; lawyer; activist; and sometimes government employee.

In 1985, I was the chief consultant to the 2nd Constitutional Convention. That Cconvention believed education was not getting the attention it deserved—that the needs of our younger generations and the foundation for our future were getting subsumed into the rough-and-tumble horse-trading and vote-grubbing of day-to-day political pandering and power plays.

To address this situation and elevate education to a higher level, the 1985 Convention proposed an amendment—ratified by CNMI voters—to establish an autonomous Board of Education. Thus, the Commonwealth Constitution now vests "administration of the public elementary and secondary education system of the Commonwealth" in a commissioner of education "appointed by a representative Board of Education," which "shall formulate policy and exercise control over the Public School System" through the commissioner. While other matters pertaining to the operations and duties of the Public School System may be provided by law, it is clear that all executive authority pertaining to the Public School System is vested in the Board of Education and the commissioner.

In 2007, CNMI voters ratified a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the Public School System an annual budget of not less than 15% of general revenues of the Commonwealth, and in 2014 another constitutional amendment approved by the voters increased the budget guarantee to not less than 25% of the general revenues of the Commonwealth. The people have spoken, again and again, yet PSS still has had to go to court to fight to actually receive the funding the Commonwealth Constitution says it is supposed to get.

One of the reasons I am running is my conviction that the CNMI needs a Board of Education strong enough to stand up to the power politics so prevalent in the CNMI and allow education to truly focus on the betterment of the lives of us all. This is coupled with my belief that I have the capacity (as demonstrated by my life and the path of my career) to contribute meaningfully to achievement of this goal.

Decisions about education and schools are not something it can properly be said fall to "the discretion of the governor," or even to the Legislature. The Constitution gives you an elected Board of Education. Of course, in a system of checks and balances and separation of powers, all must work together. The most important point, however, is that no decision affecting students and schools, parents and educators, is properly taken except openly and forthrightly with the full participation and opportunity to be heard of all of these stakeholders, and through rational analysis and objective consideration of all relevant facts.

Education is for the welfare of all, and there is no place in decision-making about our schools and educational processes for narrow self-interest, personal aggrandizement, or political expediency.

At its best, education is not just something we do for a number of years and then get on with "adult" life. I believe education should be a lifelong undertaking—more than that, it should be a lifelong *experience*. The education we receive in our youth should be the foundation for a long journey of growth and enrichment throughout our lives.

This has been the practice in my own life. Although law school was a personal goal at the time I made the decision to come to Saipan (I had to choose between accepting the Peace Corps invitation or waiting for the results of my law school applications), I did not actually go to law school until when I was turning 40—already with a wife and three children.

I believe life is about growth, about adding value to the lives of others. Our educational system should aim to maximize the potential of every individual. I am about empowering the people. We should strive not just to teach but to foster Emersonian self-reliance, individual initiative, and personal responsibility.

The traditional 3-R's are reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic, but to these for the current age I would add critical thinking and technological literacy. We should strive to produce good citizens, well able to exercise to the responsibilities and realize the potentialities of democratic governance. Creative expression and

See WHAT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Honoring one's past to change the future

Dear Precinct 5 voters and people of the CNMI: I write to introduce myself to those who keep wondering, who is this girl running in Precinct 5?

Este gi håyi yu.

Staffler

My grandmother is Rosalia Crisostimo Aldan, the oldest of 10 siblings. She was a Chamorro in Yap during the war. She lost her first husband, Felipe Aquino, to a bombing while in Yap. She, her two children and many others were repatriated to Tinian after the war. There, she remarried Alfred Flores Fleming and our family grew. Her entrepreneurial spirit was always present, when she sold wood bundles to the Japanese as a youth of 8, to when she collected the government-issued rations at the dump after the war and remade them into empanada, which she sold back to the people who threw it out in the first place. Jose C. Tenorio of Joeten Enterprises was one of my grandmother's mentors and first investors of the Fleming Store when she opened it back in 1969.

Este gi håyi yu.

My grandfather is Alfred Flores Fleming. He was the third oldest of nine children. He retired as the superintendent of the Trust Territory's Public Works, which today would function like facilities maintenance for all public entities like CUC, PSS, court, seaport, airport, the list goes on. Like the most the people who grew up in the German and Japanese era, he was not afforded a formal education, but he could speak multiple languages and that is what led him to have this opportunity during the Trust Territory. He was a product of the war. He never threw things away. They could always be useful, he said. You never know; as he would perform magic and fix the clutch on my car using just a paperclip and a washer, which he sanded down just so.

Este gi håyi yu.

My grandparents taught me to always work hard. Work as hard as we do, or harder, but never less.

My grandparents taught me to be honest. Your honor is your name. Your honor is your word.

My grandparents taught me that in order to have change, you have to know and honor your past. You don't throw out everything, because it might be useful. You never know.

This is how I would approach moving forward to change the futures of our CNMI. Because change can be scary. Change can be threatening. But change does not have to be. I take the approach of looking at a system as a whole. Find where the disconnects are, then tweak it just-so. That does not mean throwing out everything and starting from scratch. It does not mean playing the blame game and pointing fingers. It means drawing a line in the sand here and moving forward to change. Because, in order to have change, you have to know and honor your past. You don't throw out everything, because it might be useful. You never know.

Este gi håyi yu.

Leila Staffler

Supporting positive learning environments

Hafa Adai and *tirow* CNMI.

My name is Gregory Pat Borja. My friends and family call me Greg or Goro, and to others I am known as Coach. I am running as a candidate for a seat on the Board of Education on the island of Saipan.

I have been involved in the education of our islands' youth since my return to Saipan in 1994. I began my career as an Intersession Mentor for San Vicente Elementary School, coordinating sports activities for the students. I was later hired as a teacher aide at the school where I taught Physical Education, administered a Reading Program, and coached interscholastic sports.

Borja

I left the school system in 2002 to work for the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc, a non-profit disability rights organization. While working at NMPASI I have continued working with students in the Public School System by advocating for services for those in the Special Education program and providing outreach and education on topics such as bullying behaviors, coping with depression, and substance use prevention.

During this time, I also had the opportunity to serve as president of the Parent Teacher Association at my children's school. Additionally, I volunteered my time in the community as a soccer coach for the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association and at Saipan Southern High School. I am a past president of the Rotary Club of Saipan and currently serve as the director of Youth Services, in which I work hand in hand with our island's high school students in both public and private schools to promote humanitarian service and high ethical standards in all vocations. I value lifelong learning, and last year I completed my bachelor's degree in Education from the Northern Marianas College.

My driving motivation to run for a seat on the Board of Education is for success of our students. I firmly believe that learning takes place both inside and outside of the classroom. I feel that supporting positive learning environments is the key to achieving the vision of the Public School System in that students will graduate, college and career ready to be productive in an independent global society.

It is my vision to see that individual schools are given the appropriate resources in order for teachers and administrators to help their students succeed and grow not only in academics, but also socially and athletically.

I would like to see our students provided with options in their learning experience, by providing opportunities to expand their education through acquiring vocational skills.

It is also my goal to increase parent involvement in their children's education, by supporting them and offering them the encouragement they need to assist their children in achieving their educational goals.

I believe in the Public School System and the educational benefits that are provided to our community. My wife and children are a proud part of the Mighty Dolphin family, and it is my vision to see each student in the Public School System reach their full potential, follow their dreams, and when they graduate, feel a sense of accomplishment.

I humbly ask for your support this election, by voting for Gregory Pat Borja (No. 3 on the ballot) for Board of Education.

Thank you, si yu'us ma'ase, ghilissow, and salamat po.

Gregory "Greg" Borja
San Vicente, Saipan

WHAT

From Page 8

innovation, artistic appreciation, knowledge of the foundations of health and fitness and deep appreciation of duties of humanity we all owe to one another and bind us together in our common humanity. All are important goals of education.

I have had young adults not long out of school express frustration to me that they weren't taught important basic life skills in school, such as how to open a bank account or rent an apartment or buy a car, make a budget, file taxes, write a check or balance a checkbook. We can and should do a better job of preparing young people for the practical aspects of adult life, beginning in middle school. Each generation coming of age in our islands should be introduced to the concept of entrepreneurship, have an overall grasp of the fundamentals of business and economic activity, and receive the basics of a financial education.

Our educational system has an extraordinary and essential role at the center of the life of our society. Looked at casually or superficially, it is easy to miss how much actually depends on its proper functioning. Because educators take on the responsibility of caring for the island's children during the day, their parents are free to be economically productive. School breakfast and lunch programs help ensure proper nutrition and hence the sound physical and emotional development of our children.

Every aspect of human endeavor in modern society depends on schools to prepare each future citizen for the functions they will be called upon to perform as adults for the welfare of all. Shortchanging education shortchanges the entire community.

I believe in a close working relationship between public and private schools, my own children having been educated in both. Then-first lady Hillary Clinton in 1996 popularized the African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child," which emphasizes the shared responsibility we all have for the right and successful upbringing of every child entering our community. Their future is our future and our grandchildren's future.

As a member of the Board of Education, I will work to support and protect our *students* first and foremost. I will strive to engage *parents* and, most importantly, listen to their needs and concerns, their aspirations for their children and their island, their ideas, values and perspectives that can help guide our course as we fashion educational programs, activities, and facilities. Education should strengthen and uplift *families* and help every member of our *community* to grow and prosper. And *educators* need our support if they are to effectively perform the tasks and responsibilities we have given them.

From birth to this day, more than two-thirds of my life has been experienced in the Northern Mariana Islands—over 40 years of commitment to the people of the CNMI beginning with my graduation from college. When elected to the Board of Education, the priority of my commitment in that office will be simple: Students • Parents • Educators • Community.

For all these reasons, I am humbly asking for your support. I am No. 1 on the Board of Education ballot in the upcoming general election, and I will greatly appreciate your vote.

Stephen C. Woodruff

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Proven leadership needed in these times

Tirow Commonwealth: Thank you for working together to prevent this COVID-19 pandemic from spreading and helping us keep the CNMI the safest place in the nation. That we are as free from this pandemic as we are right now is a testament to true leadership. Our Republican administration and Republican Legislature led the way early on to prevent the transmission of the coronavirus in our community. From preemptively attempting to prevent incoming flights and setting up the COVID-19 Task Force, to setting up protocols to prevent the spread, acquiring enough test kits for all of our residents, setting up quarantine facilities, and getting the medical equipment and setting up the medical facilities needed to address any possible scenarios, we are a model to the rest of the nation because our Republican administration and Legislature has demonstrated real and exceptional leadership, as it has through every recent natural disaster. As was the case with the economic crisis of some years ago, and Typhoon Soudelor, and Super Typhoon Yutu, recovering from this crisis will require exceptional, tested, and proven leadership. Bringing our economy back after this pandemic will require exceptional, tested, and proven leadership. There is only one team that can make claim to having this experience, and that is the Republican team. We will need real leadership to get us all back on our feet and get our economy back to the historic growth it was on before we were affected by Yutu and COVID-19. Only one team has shown it is up to the job, and that is the Republican team. This election is too important to put in the hands of those who have created divisiveness and used our Legislature simply to play politics. We need real leaders, experienced leaders, who have demonstrated they can and will work together as a team for the benefit of our great Commonwealth.

I humbly ask you to please vote Republican across the ballot.

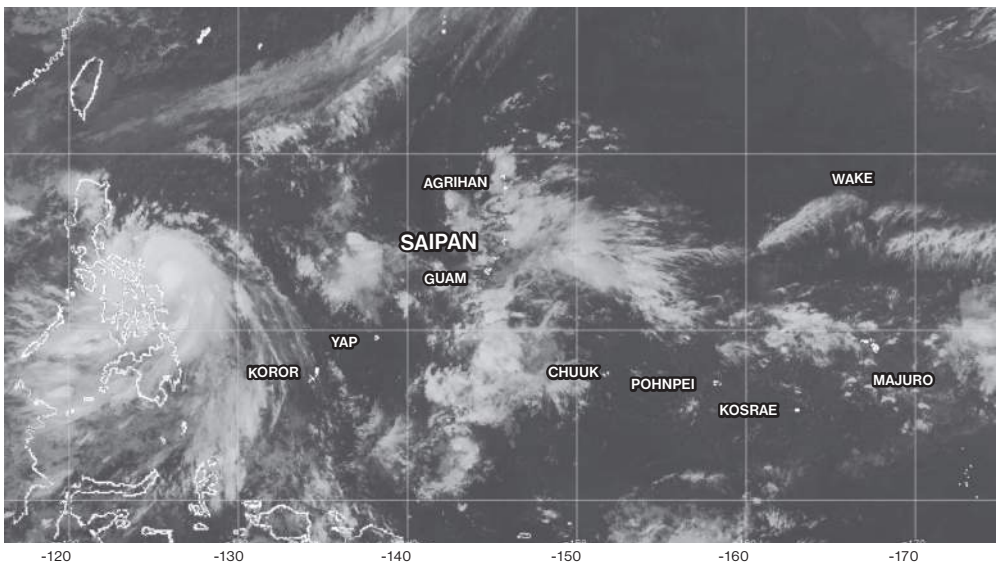
John Tagabuel
Sadog Tasi, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the east tuesday afternoon.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	88° 78°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:33 AM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

East to southeast winds prevail over the Marianas this morning. An upper-level low was bringing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms to portions of the Marianas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:11 AM	5:50 PM
Tuesday	6:11 AM	5:50 PM
Wednesday	6:11 AM	5:49 PM
Thursday	6:12 AM	5:49 PM
Friday	6:12 AM	5:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:43 AM	2:43 PM
Tuesday	-	2:33 AM	3:21 PM
Wednesday	-	3:21 AM	3:57 PM
Thursday	-	4:08 AM	4:32 PM
Friday	-	4:54 AM	5:07 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	63° / 55°
Beijing	Cloudy	61° / 46°
Hong Kong	Sunny	82° / 73°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 72°
London	Sunny	100° / 70°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	76° / 59°
Manila	Showers	90° / 75°
Melbourne	Showers	72° / 55°
Miami	Thunderstorms	85° / 72°
New York	Thunderstorms	73° / 62°
Osaka	Showers	66° / 54°
Paris	Cloudy	64° / 54°
Busan	Sunny	70° / 52°
Rome	Sunny	72° / 50°
Salem	Sunny	70° / 43°
San Francisco	Sunny	79° / 54°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	64° / 45°
Tokyo	Showers	61° / 52°
Washington, DC	Rain	72° / 54°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:15 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.31
10:05 AM	LOW TIDE	0.17
5:14 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.74
11:31 PM	LOW TIDE	0.77

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1 via Guam
UA183	9:05pm	10:50pm	5 via Guam

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	11:45pm	6:56am+1	5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25pm	4:25am+1	1 via Guam
UA184	11:45pm	5:33am+1	5 via Guam

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The team that has kept us safe

Hafa adai and greetings to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

It has been a tough year. I don't need to tell any of you that. But I would like to take time out to share my thoughts, collectively, as I ponder all the challenges we are facing this year due to the economic downturn, from natural disasters to a full-blown pandemic.

As we all know, we were on the road to economic recovery from Typhoon Soudelor and Super Typhoon Yutu in early January of this year, with a fair and steady influx of tourist arrivals at 51%, Federal Emergency Management Administration's housing disaster program, and Small Business Administration loan programs. The Torres-Palacios administration was in its recovery mode and in the process of steadily maneuvering upward mobility to economic stability.

Unfortunately, in March of this year, the governor made the most challenging decision of his tenure to maintain a realistic governmental operation for public safety and a healthy CNMI-wide community. This administration expeditiously implemented strict border control, activation of the CNMI COVID-19 Task Force, and the excellent working relationship with the majority of the 21st Legislature to expedite necessary bills on one of the worst diseases since the 1918 influenza pandemic.

The leadership of the Republicans has been tested and proven during this pandemic. We are the safest place in the nation. This is not by chance, but because of the leadership we have, that jumped to action immediately and ensured that everything that could be done for the people of our islands was done. This is what real leadership looks like.

We all know that strong leadership and excellent collaboration creates optimal results. In this case, the leadership of the Torres-Palacios administration and the Republican-controlled House of Representative and Senate made any natural disaster seem manageable due to the excellent working relationship with both branches of government. Furthermore, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios understands great and potential leadership in the Republican parties endorsed candidates for both houses of the Legislature from Rota, Tinian, Saipan, and Northern Islands.

This is the team that has kept us safe and this is the team that will put our economy back on track. With this said, I humbly ask you to please support and vote for all Republican candidates across the ballot in this election. Biba Republican!

Roman Tudela Jr.
San Vicente, Saipan

Kilili achievements

Sablan

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan said his tenure in the 116th Congress has been very productive. He has had five bills and six amendments passed into law already in this, his sixth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. And he has four more bills piggybacking on the House-passed National Defense Authorization Act, the annual military funding legislation that has never failed to be enacted in over half a century. Sablan was also successful at securing much-needed federal resources for the Marianas in relief legislation after the 2018 typhoons and in the multiple pandemic aid bills enacted this year.

All four of Sablan's NDAA provisions have passed the House, and three have passed the Senate. Differences between the House and Senate NDAAs are now being reconciled by a conference committee; and that agreement is expected to be passed before the end of the year.

Disaster and pandemic relief

The 116th Congress has been non-stop for Sablan. When his sixth term began in 2019, he was already negotiating to increase aid for the Marianas above the levels in disaster recovery legislation that Republicans had written in December 2018. By June 2019, with a Democratic majority in the House of Representatives, Public Law 116-20, the Disaster Supplemental Appropriations Act was completed; and Sablan had made the Marianas eligible for all major programs. This law included a $244 million community development block grant for disaster recovery, which the Commonwealth and the Trump administration are still deciding how to spend.

Sablan secured another $129 million in special set-asides for the Marianas, which is being spent, including $56 million for solid waste management, $36 million for Marianas Medicaid, $25 million for disaster nutrition assistance, $10.4 million for water and sewer infrastructure, and $2 million for help on managing the flood of new money. Notably, Sablan increased the funding for the Marianas food stamp and Medicaid programs by amending the disaster bill during debate on the floor of the House.

This year, a new disaster struck, COVID-19, and Sablan made sure the Marianas was not left out of national relief bills. He added specific provisions from his own NMI Coronavirus Emergency Assistance Act, H.R. 6123, to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and CARES Act, which were signed into law in February and March.

The CARES Act provided the Commonwealth government with an estimated $37.8 million to make up for lost revenue, increased funding for PSS and NMC, gave students loan debt relief, and made $945 weekly unemployment benefits available in the Marianas for the first time. The CARES Act also included the Marianas in taxpayer recovery rebates, housing assistance, grants and loan opportunities for small businesses, and the funding to pay for health care and procure safety equipment related to the pandemic.

Expanding resources for Marianas vets

With Democrats in the majority in the House of Representatives and as a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, Sablan has also been expanding resources available to veterans, both in the Marianas and nationwide. Two of his bills, the GI Bill Access to Career Credentials Act and the Disabled Veterans Education Relief Act, were already enacted into law this year.

NMI permanent residency for long-timers now possible

Sablan's work of fine-tuning the Marianas' transition to federal immigration continued in the 116th Congress with passage of the Northern Mariana Islands Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act. Public Law 116-24 gives permanent residence and work authorization in the Marianas to persons who were first allowed to enter the islands under the Commonwealth's own immigration law. Permanent residence is also available to those left "stateless" as a result of the Marianas Covenant of Political Union with the U.S., and to family members of U.S. citizens. About 2,000 people applied for the permanent status before the Aug. 17 deadline this year.

Sablan also included an immigration provision in last year's consolidated appropriations act. That law made an additional 3,000 CW permits available for construction workers needed for disaster recovery in the Marianas.

NMI represented in House leadership

In the Democratic majority 116th Congress, Sablan has taken on multiple leadership responsibilities. He was selected to chair the Education Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education and has used this post to include benefits for Marianas schools and students in bills the Education Committee has passed. These include infrastructure funding in the Reopen and Rebuild America's Schools Act that was made part of the House-passed HEROES Act for pandemic relief. Chairman Sablan also ensured a law providing paid STEM fellowships extended to community college students, including those at the Northern Marianas College.

Sablan was elected to serve as vice chair of the House Natural Resources Committee with responsibility for all insular area issues. He used that position to convene a full committee hearing on the Medicaid funding "cliff" faced by the Marianas and other insular areas, as Obamacare money expired in 2019. Sablan brought all five island Medicaid directors to Washington to testify. The hearing resulted in $120 million in additional funding for Marianas for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 and a reduction in the local match required for federal Medicaid, lower than for any U.S. state. ***(From the Office of the Delegate)***

Report to the people

Editor's Note: The following is being published in several parts due to its length.

First of a series

By **TINA SABLAN**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Christina Marie Sablan is a member of the CNMI House of Representatives of the 21st Legislature.

When I began my term in the 21st Legislature, I made a commitment to being open and transparent with you, the people of Precinct 2 and the Commonwealth, about the work I do in serving you. I also made a commitment to listen to your concerns and seek feedback as much as possible about the needs of our community and ideas for solutions.

Getting anything done in the Legislature requires working with colleagues across political lines and collaborating with other government departments and agencies, community organizations, private sector partners, and other stakeholders. I rely heavily on my team: I have been fortunate to work with terrific staff, interns, and volunteers during this term. I also rely a great deal on the dedicated and professional staff of the Legislative Bureau.

Over the course of the last two years, I have communicated and engaged with you regularly through community meetings, public hearings, news releases, statements to the press, opinion pieces, and social media. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the work we've done together these past two years and the work that lies ahead. I offer this report, covering legislative activities and constituent services, office operations, and outreach programs.

Legislative activities

I serve on three standing committees in the House of Representatives: Ways and Means; Health; and Federal and Foreign Affairs. I have also been appointed to two special committees: Federal Assistance and Disaster-Related Funding; and Executive Expenditures.

As a member of the minority, I am especially cognizant of how important it is to work on both sides of the aisle in developing, reviewing, and passing bills. Much of what I have been able to do in garnering the support of my colleagues has been at the committee level and through amendments offered on the floor to clarify and improve legislation. Sometimes I offer the amendments myself, and sometimes other members take the lead. Here's a summary of key measures I have been involved in:

Signed into Law: I have strongly advocated these past two years for increased funding for public education. To address shortfalls from the general appropriations acts, I supported and co-sponsored local appropriations measures, including Saipan Local Law 21-5, which appropriated $500,000 to the Northern Marianas College and $250,000 to the Public School System. I also supported and drafted clarifying amendments that were adopted into Saipan Local Law 21-13, which appropriated $208,000 to the Northern Marianas College, as well as $100,000 to Karidat for emergency food and rental assistance and $300,000 to the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. for rental assistance and home loans.

Last September I worked closely with PSS to identify the FEMA matching and other funding needs for schools that were still badly damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu, and presented the data to my colleagues on the Saipan & Northern Islands Legislative Delegation. SNILD members on both sides of the aisle and from different precincts agreed to appropriate $745,000 specifically to support disaster repairs and operations at various public schools on Saipan. Two of our hardest-hit schools that serve Precinct 2 students especially benefited from Saipan Local Law 21-10: Hopwood Middle School ($250,000) and WSR Elementary School ($150,000).

To be continued

Business

Thai Massage

'prioritizes customers' safety'

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Traditional Thai Massage wants to assure the public that massages are completely safe on island even at a time of COVID-19, especially since the CNMI hasn't had any community transmission for more than two months now.

Manager Jean Pascua said since they reopened last May, the massage establishment in Chalan Kanoa has made the safety of their customers the top priority. Like many business establishments, Traditional Thai Massage was forced to shut their doors when the CNMI registered its first COVID-19 case last March.

"We always changed our linens after each customer and we've always use fresh towels even prior to COVID-19. We also disinfect our rooms after every customer and only customers can go inside the room. We want to reassure our customers that our massage establishment is safe and COVID-19-free," she said.

She added that all their staff undergo COVID-19 testing at least once a month and staff as well as customers also need to have their temperatures checked before entering the establishment. They also keep a login notebook for contract-tracing purposes and no longer accept walk-in customers as those who want to get a massage need to call in advance to set an appointment.

PHOTOS BY MARK RABAGO

Traditional Thai Massage is located at the Shakir Building in Chalan Kanoa and is open from 2pm to 9pm, every day.

Traditional Thai Massage staff as well as customers also need to have their temperatures check before entering the establishment.

For more information or to make appointments, call Traditional Thai Massage at 235-2445 or 989-1361.

Traditional Thai Massage's staff are from Thailand, with decades of experience in the age-old craft of Thai massage. "We've had them since we were still in San Antonio so they really know what they're doing and our loyal customers have been coming back at our massage parlor for years now," said Pascua.

Traditional Thai Massage staff are from Thailand with decades of experience in the age-old craft of Thai massage.

Because social distancing clearly can't be followed when you're doing massages, Traditional Thai Massage and other local massage parlors were out of business for months until the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force lowered the CNMI's Vulnerability Level to "Blue" last May.

Since reopening five months back, Pascua said they're seeing an uptick in customers as business is now back to 70% of pre-COVID-19 levels. That's much better than 50% when they first reopened last May.

As far as promotions are concerned, she said they don't have any right now but hope to introduce discounts and other promotions in December during the Christmas season.

Traditional Thai Massage is located at the Shakir Building in Chalan Kanoa and is open from 2pm to 9pm, every day. For more information or to make appointments, call Traditional Thai Massage at 235-2445 or 989-1361.

Nation

Trump, Biden lawyer up

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Donald Trump's and Democratic rival Joe Biden's campaigns are assembling armies of powerful lawyers for the possibility that the race for the White House is decided not at the ballot box but in court.

They have been engaging in a lawyer's version of tabletop war games, churning out draft pleadings, briefs and memos to cover scenarios that read like the stuff of a law school hypothetical more than a real-life case in a democracy.

» Brace for White House legal battle

Attorneys for the Republicans and the Democrats are already clashing in courts across the U.S. over mailed-in ballot deadlines and other issues brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. And as Trump tries to sow doubt in the legitimacy of the Nov. 3 election, both sides have built massive legal operations readying for a bitterly disputed race that lands at the Supreme Court

"We've been preparing for this for well over a year," Republican National Committee Chief Counsel Justin Riemer told The Associated Press. "We've been working with the campaign on our strategy for recount preparation, for Election Day operations and our litigation strategy."

On the Democratic side, the Biden campaign's election protection program includes a special national litigation team involving hundreds of lawyers led by Walter Dellinger, acting solicitor general in the Clinton administration, and Donald Verrilli, a solicitor general under President Barack Obama, among others. Bob Bauer, a former White House counsel to Obama, and Biden campaign general counsel Dana Remus are focused on protecting the rights of voters, who have been enduring long lines at polling places around the country on the belief that the presidential election will be decided by their ballots.

Both sides are informed by the experience of the 2000 election, which was ultimately decided by the Supreme Court in Bush v. Gore. But this year, because Trump has pushed unsubstantiated claims about the potential for voter fraud with increased voting by mail, sowing doubt about the integrity of the result, lawyers are preparing for a return trip before the high court.

And, in an extraordinary twist, the president has pushed for his nominee to the Supreme Court, Judge Amy Coney Barrett, to be seated as soon as possible if she is confirmed as expected on Monday, saying it's important to have a ninth justice to decide any election disputes.

The race is already thought to be the most litigated in American history, with some 260 lawsuits arising from the coronavirus by one tally.

Behind the scenes, Trump and Republicans have been putting together a legal team that includes Jay Sekulow, one of the president's lead attorneys during the impeachment trial and the special counsel's Russia investigation and an experienced litigator before the Supreme Court. Republicans have hired dozens of attorneys and retained prominent national firms to challenge Democratic efforts to expand ballot access in key battleground states.

Thousands of volunteer lawyers are prepared to assist with Election Day operations and poll watching and other issues, Riemer said. A group called Lawyers for Trump, whose advisory board includes Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani, is recruiting retired lawyers and law students. Jones Day is among the prominent global law firms expected to play a role. Attorney Will Consovoy, who has represented Trump in such cases as his long-running fight to prevent a top New York prosecutor from getting his tax returns, is also likely to be a key player in any election legal fights.

Senate GOP marches ahead on Barrett over Dems' blockade

WASHINGTON (AP)— The Senate is poised for a rare weekend session as Republicans race to put Amy Coney Barrett on the Supreme Court and cement a conservative majority before Election Day despite Democratic efforts to stall President Donald Trump's nominee.

Democrats mounted time-consuming procedural hurdles Friday, but the party has no realistic chance of stopping Barrett's advance in the Republican-controlled chamber. Barrett, a federal appeals court judge, is expected to be confirmed Monday and quickly join the court.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York warned Republicans that they were making a "colossal and historic mistake."

Republicans appeared unmoved. In a lengthy speech, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell praised Barrett as an "extraordinary" nominee and defended her quick confirmation. "We will give this nominee the vote she deserves no later than Monday," he said.

Barrett, 48, presented herself in public testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee as a neutral arbiter of cases on abortion, the Affordable Care Act and presidential power — issues soon confronting the court. At one point she suggested, "It's not the law of Amy."

But Barrett's past writings against abortion and a ruling on the Obama-era health care law show a deeply conservative thinker.

Trump said this week he is hopeful the Supreme Court will undo the health law when the justices take up a challenge Nov. 10, the week after the election.

The fast-track confirmation process is like none other in U.S. history so close to a presidential election.

Schumer called it the "least legitimate process in the country's history" as he forced procedural steps, including an unusual private Senate session, in hopes of changing Republicans' minds.

But Republicans quickly convened, then ended, the closed-door meeting, pushing forward. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, dismissed the stall tactics as "frivolous."

At the start of Trump's presidency, McConnell engineered a Senate rules change to allow confirmation by a majority of the 100 senators, rather than the 60-vote threshold traditionally needed to advance high court nominees over objections. With a 53-47 GOP majority, Barrett's confirmation is almost certain.

Most Republicans are supporting Barrett's confirmation. Only Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine has said she won't vote for a nominee so close to the presidential election.

Asia

Thai protesters' deadline passes

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's government and the country's pro-democracy movement appeared no closer to resolving their differences Saturday, as the protesters' deadline for Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha to step down came and went with no new action from either side, and no backing down.

After the 10 p.m. deadline passed, protesters called another rally for central Bangkok on Sunday, at a major intersection in the capital's main shopping district where they have gathered before.

Prayuth told supporters Saturday evening as he left a Buddhist temple where a prayer session was held for national peace and prosperity that he would not quit.

"The government is sincere in solving the problem and committed to following the law in doing so," he told reporters.

Prayuth's office had issued a statement earlier in the day repeating his plea to resolve differences through Parliament, which will discuss the political situation in a special session starting Monday.

"Although the ongoing political situation comprises many opposing views among different groups, we should rather take this as an opportunity for Thais to consult each other on what is best for the nation," the statement said.

AP

Pro-democracy activists display a placard with Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's head attached to a cockroach during a protest outside remand prison, in which some of the activists are kept, in Bangkok, Thailand, Friday, Oct. 23, 2020.

Prayuth this past week issued a call to allow Parliament to seek a solution to the crisis and, in a gesture to appease the protesters, revoked a state of emergency for Bangkok he had imposed a week earlier that made protest rallies illegal.

» But PM says he won't quit

"If all parties are committed to exercise full restraint and flexibility, the circumstances would be more conducive to de-escalating the current tense political conflict and reaching an outcome that is acceptable to all stakeholders," said Saturday's statement, quoting government spokesperson Anucha Burapachaisri.

The protesters, however, said they would stick to their deadline for Prayuth to meet their demands that he resign and that their arrested comrades be released from jail. They have shown no enthusiasm for leaving matters in the hands of Parliament.

On Saturday morning, one of the protest leaders, Jatupat "Pai Dao Din" Boonpattaraksa, had told a crowd outside Bangkok Remand Prison that protesters should gather there and consider their next step as they waited for a response from Prayuth.

Protesters rallied outside the prison on Friday to press for their comrades' release. They welcomed the release of Jatupat, who called for seven others still imprisoned to be freed.

However, three prominent protest leaders were denied release on bail Saturday morning.

Attack in Kabul kills 18; al-Qaida leader killed in Ghazni

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The death toll from the suicide attack Saturday in Afghanistan's capital has risen to at least 18 killed and 57 people wounded, including students, the interior ministry said.

Afghan security officials separately announced on Saturday that a senior al-Qaida commander had been killed in a recent operation in the country's east.

Saturday's explosion in the capital struck outside an education center in a heavily Shiite neighborhood of western Kabul, Dasht-e-Barchi.

Interior Ministry spokesman Tariq Arian says that the attacker was trying to enter the center when he was stopped by security guards.

According to Arian, the casualty toll may rise further as family members of victims of the suicide bombing are still searching the several different hospitals where the wounded have been taken.

No group claimed immediate responsibility for the bombing. The Taliban rejected any connection with the attack.

An Islamic State affiliate claimed responsibility for a similar suicide attack at an education center in August 2018, in which 34 students were killed. Within Afghanistan, IS has launched large-scale attacks on minority Shiites, Sikhs and Hindus, whom it views as apostates.

Hundreds of Sikhs and Hindus in Afghanistan fled the country in September after a gunman loyal to the militant group killed 25 members of the shrinking community in an attack on their share a place of worship in Kabul.

Meanwhile, the Afghan intelligence service said in a tweet that special forces killed al-Qaida's number two commander for the Indian sub-continent, Abu Muhsin al-Masri, in a recent operation in eastern Ghazni. The National Directorate of Security did not immediately share more details about the operation.

Al-Masri was listed among the most wanted terrorists by the U.S. Department of Justice in 2018.

The U.S. signed a peace deal with the Taliban in February, opening up a path toward withdrawing American troops from the conflict. U.S. officials said the deal also aimed refocus security efforts on fighting the Islamic State, which is a rival of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

There has been an upsurge in violence between Taliban and Afghan forces in the country recently, even as representatives from the two warring sides begin their own peace talks in Doha to end the decades-long war in Afghanistan.

Earlier Saturday a roadside bomb killed nine people in eastern Afghanistan after it struck a minivan full of civilians, a local official said.

Ghazni province police spokesman Ahmad Khan Sirat said that a second roadside bomb killed two policemen, after it struck their vehicle that was making its way to the victims of the first explosion.

World

Europe, US watch case totals grow, debate new restrictions

CHICAGO (AP)—Confirmed coronavirus infections continued to soar Saturday in many parts of the U.S. and Europe. In some cases, so did anger over the restrictions governments put in place to try to stem the tide.

Oklahoma, Illinois, New Mexico and Michigan were among states announcing new record highs in daily confirmed cases Saturday, a day after a nationwide daily record of more than 83,000 reported infections, according to Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, Michigan's chief medical executive, said it's "now more important than ever that people take this seriously." The 3,338 new COVID-19 cases in her state topped the old record by more than 1,300.

German authorities reported a record one-day total of new coronavirus cases this weekend while leaders in Spain and Italy debated how to control the resurgent virus amid public pushback to curfews despite a global death toll topping 1.1 million people.

In Italy, officials huddled with regional authorities on Saturday to determine what new restrictions could be imposed as confirmed cases surpassed half a million.

Premier Giuseppe Conte has said he doesn't want to put Italy under severe lockdown again, as he did at the pandemic's start. In past days, several governors ordered overnight curfews in their regions to stop people from congregating at night outside bars and other venues.

One such curfew fueled anger in Naples, triggering a violent clash by protesters with police. Italian media said protesters hurled rocks, pieces of broken ceramic tiles and smoke bombs at police while they battled back with tear gas. Elsewhere in Europe, police in Warsaw, Poland, used tear gas and pepper spray to disperse protesters angry over new virus restrictions, and anti-lockdown demonstrators gathered in London's Trafalgar Square.

Interior Minister Luciana Lamorgese on Saturday branded the Naples protests "unacceptable" and said prosecutors were investigating.

According to Health Ministry figures, Italy's one-day new caseload of confirmed infections crept closer to 20,000 on Saturday, a slightly bigger daily increase than Friday. The nation's confirmed death toll, second-highest in Europe after Britain's, rose to 37,210 after 151 more deaths.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez plans to meet with his Cabinet Sunday morning in Madrid to prepare a new state of emergency, a strategy used twice since the start of the pandemic.

The first in March ordered strict home confinement across the nation, closed stores, and recruited private industry for the national public health fight. The second went into effect two weeks ago, focused on transit limits in the Madrid area.

In Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel urged citizens again to reduce their number of social contacts as the nation recorded a new daily high for infections.

The 14,714 cases reported on Saturday includes cases from both Friday and Thursday because of a three-hour data outage at the country's disease control agency Thursday. Forty-nine more people died, bringing the overall death toll past 10,000.

The chancellor said in her weekly podcast "if we all obey (to social distancing) we will all together survive this enormous challenge posed by the virus."

Other European countries have tightened restrictions hoping to cope with their own rising case counts.

Colombia reaches 1M confirmed coronavirus cases

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Colombia reached 1 million confirmed coronavirus cases on Saturday, becoming the second country in Latin America to report that number in less than a week.

The nation of 50 million saw cases peak in August and has seen a decline since but still continues to register around 8,000 new infections a day.

Epidemiologists expect to see another marked increase by the end of the year, a prognosis that has put medical workers like nurse Freddy Harvey Rodríguez and his doctor son at one of Bogota's largest hospitals on edge.

"The fear is it's going to be worse," Rodríguez said on a recent afternoon.

Argentina hit 1 million confirmed cases on Monday and Peru and Mexico are expected to reach the grim marker in the weeks ahead. Brazil ranks third worldwide in the number of virus cases and passed 1 million infections back in June.

Colombia has become the eighth country to hit 1 million confirmed coronavirus cases. Besides Argentina and Brazil, the others are the United States, India, Russia, France and Spain, according to Johns Hopkins University data.

Overall, Latin America continues to register some of the highest caseloads, diagnosing more than 100,000 confirmed infections each day, though the World Health Organization reports that Europe is now seeing even larger numbers as a second virus wave strikes.

Experts say the region is experiencing a table-top like effect in which cases remain relatively high instead of dramatically dropping. In a number of countries, the virus has begun spreading to areas that had previously registered relatively few cases.

"The behavior of the virus is different," said Dr. Luis Jorge Hernández, a public health professor at the University of the Andes in Colombia. "It's not big resurgences but new outbreaks."

In Colombia, a six-month lockdown helped slow contagion and gave officials time to expand the number of ICU beds. While cases rose dramatically in Bogota, stretching hospital capacity, the city has managed to avoid the sorts of dire scenes seen elsewhere in the region of patients lined up outside hospitals, struggling to find a bed.

Nonetheless, the cost has been high: Nearly 30,000 people have died, including a number of medical workers like colleagues of Rodríguez. One count by a medical association estimates that nearly 200 physicians and other workers have died.

Rodríguez said his son spent over $100 buying him protective gear at the start of the pandemic. The pair still worry about getting sick. Both work at Bogota's Kennedy Hospital, which is located in a sprawling working-class neighborhood. The area has the highest total number of cases anywhere in the bustling capital.

Health & Wellness

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3 tips to effectively train for virtual races

DREAMSTIME/TNS

When COVID-19 struck, many races were canceled to limit crowds. Virtual races are becoming a popular alternative.

Running is a great cardiovascular activity and one that has definite health advantages. For people who enjoy running, training, and completing a marathon or road race, brings a great sense of satisfaction. But when COVID-19 struck, many races were canceled to limit crowds. Now, virtual races are becoming a popular alternative.

Allison Gregg, a Mayo Clinic dietitian who is also a runner, says that virtual races are a great way to improve your cardiovascular health and stay motivated with training, but require different planning and preparation, especially regarding to nutrition and hydration.

"At physical races, nutrition and hydration aid stations are usually set up at regular intervals around the course. With virtual races, it is now up to you," says Gregg.

She offers her top 3 nutrition and hydration tips for an effective virtual race.

TIP 1
Don't skip intrarace fueling.

"Whether a virtual race or in person, it's critical not to skip fueling while racing as your body needs energy to keep going," says Gregg. She says it's even more important for novice runners, compared to professionals because novices typically run for a longer time and use more fuel.

Gregg recommends ingesting 30-60 grams of carbohydrates every hour if running for longer than one hour. "You should begin carbohydrate intake shortly after the start of your race and continue to consume at 15- to 20-minute intervals for the remainder of your run," she says.

Hydration is also an important component. Losing just 2% of your body weight through dehydration can severely impair performance and easily add unwanted time to your race. While you may not have been accustomed to bringing drinks with you, your virtual run will require it.

You should plan to consume 1 cup of fluid every 10-20 minutes during your race. If running for longer than one hour, incorporate an electrolyte drink. You can choose which brand and flavor, but you should make a choice that provides a balance of carbohydrates, sodium and potassium to replace losses.

TIP 2
Plan ahead for your race route

As you go through your training for a virtual race, consider how your route, and your hydration and fuel, factor in. With a virtual race, you will need to carry your own supplies. This can be achieved several ways, including using a running vest or belt to carry drinks and gels. Another popular strategy is to coordinate your race route to pass by your house. "A looped course starting at your house allows for multiple passes for a nutrition and hydration station set up in the driveway or front yard," says Gregg.

Or, she adds, consider getting friends and family involved. "They could join you on the course in predetermined locations along the route to hand off nutrition and hydration to you."

TIP 3
Practice your race fueling plan in advance.

"Race day is not a good day to try new things," warns Gregg. "Practice your nutrition and hydration plan during training, especially with a run that will be similar to your race intensity effort."

Experiment during training with different gels, bars and other whole foods, water, sports drinks and electrolyte beverages to see what your body tolerates best. Your body will digest nutrition differently on an easy run versus a harder effort. Simulate your race in terms of exertion and distance as close as possible to leave nothing to chance on race day. Also, practice the simple things, such as opening your gels while running. Or consider ripping your gels or other food items in advance so you can easily open them while running."Although COVID-19 has changed the look of running races, you can still aim for your personal best during a virtual event by keeping your body hydrated and ensuring you have enough energy to get to the finish," says Gregg. ***(Mayo Clinic News Network)***

Mayo Clinic News Network is your source for health news, advances in research and wellness tips.

Coronavirus grief: Coping with the loss of routine during the pandemic

It isn't easy adjusting to changes brought on by the pandemic. Consider how to deal with grief caused by the loss of your normal routine.

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has changed people's lives in many ways. In addition to feeling grief over the loss of life caused by COVID-19, you're likely grieving the loss of your normal routine.

Understanding grief caused by the coronavirus pandemicStay-at-home restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have affected people's jobs, the way kids go to school and play, and the ability to gather in person with family and friends. These measures have also changed how people shop, worship, exercise, eat and seek entertainment. As a result, the pandemic has had a major psychological impact, causing people to lose a sense of safety, predictability, control, freedom and security.

Why is the loss of your routine so upsetting? You might not realize it, but you don't only feel attachments to other people. You also probably feel powerful attachments to your work and certain places and things. The experience of losing these attachments, however, isn't as well-defined as some losses. And unexpected endings can cause strong emotions. This can make it hard to deal with what's happened and move forward.

You might also find that changes brought on by the pandemic are affecting your sense of self. For instance, if your identity is closely tied to your job, losing your job could trigger an identity crisis.

Signs and symptoms of griefGrief might cause you to feel numb or empty, angry, or unable to feel joy or sadness. You might also have physical symptoms, such as trouble sleeping or eating, excess fatigue, muscle weakness, or shakiness. You might have nightmares or socially withdraw.

Keep in mind, however, that grief can also have some positive effects. For example, you might feel grateful for brave and caring people in your community. You might have an increased appreciation for your relationships and have a desire to help others who are experiencing similar losses.

Coping with coronavirus griefAs awful as it might feel, grief serves an important purpose. Grief helps you recognize that you've experienced a loss and that you're going to need to adapt.

GENARO MOLINA/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

People wait in line while the Street Team from Homies Unidos, foreground, put together bags of food for needy families who have lost jobs or have been struggling to make ends meet due to the coronavirus pandemic in Koreatown in Los Angeles.

To deal with your grief:

Pay attention to your feelings. Name what you've lost due to the pandemic. It might help to write this down in a journal. Allow yourself to feel sadness or cry.

Think about your strengths and coping skills. How can they help you move forward? Consider other tough transitions you've been through, such as a previous job change or divorce. What did you do that helped you recover?

Stay connected. Don't let social distancing prevent you from getting the support you need. Use phone calls, text messages, video chats and social media to stay in touch with family and friends who are positive and supportive. Reach out to those in similar situations. Pets also can provide emotional support.

Create an adapted routine. This can help preserve a sense of order and purpose, despite how much things may have changed. In addition to work or online learning, include activities that might help you cope, such as exercise, worship or hobbies. Keep a regular sleep schedule and try to maintain a healthy diet.

Limit your news diet. Spending too much time reading or listening to news about the COVID-19 pandemic can cause you to focus heavily on what you've lost, as well as increase anxiety.

Remember the journey. If you've lost your job, you don't have to let the way it ended define the whole experience. Consider some of your good memories and the big picture.

As you adjust to a new reality and focus on the things you can control, your feelings of grief are likely to lessen.

If you're having trouble coping with your grief over changes caused by the pandemic, consider seeking help from a mental health provider.

Information in this post was accurate at the time of its posting. Due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, scientific understanding along with guidelines and recommendations may have changed since the original publication date.

Check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website for additional updates on COVID-19. For more information and all your COVID-19 coverage, go to the Mayo Clinic News Network and mayoclinic.org. ***(Mayo Clinic News Network)***

Life & Style

Teens behind latest art damage on Berlin's Museum Island

BERLIN (AP)—Several teenagers sprayed graffiti on a piece of art outside one of Berlin's most famous museums and that the vandalism was unrelated to the damaging of more than 60 other art works on the city's Museum Island that were smeared with an oily liquid early this month, police said Saturday.

A huge granite bowl in front of the Altes Museum, which is part of the German capital's museum complex and houses antiquities, was defaced Friday night by some teenagers and adults, Berlin police said. Two of the suspects were temporarily detained.

Museum Island is a UNESCO world heritage site in the heart of Berlin and one of the city's main tourist attractions,

Dozens of other exhibits at the Museum Island complex were vandalized Oct. 3. Investigators said they had watched hours of surveillance camera footage but not found any obvious sign of anyone applying the liquid.

Museum experts have said the motive remains a mystery and there appeared to be no thematic link between the targeted works. They expressed optimism that the apparently random damage can be repaired.

Berlin police said the graffiti sprayed on the granite bowl did not have any political content or appear related to the damaging of the other art works.

AP

File picture taken Oct.21, 2020 a stain is on Sarcophagus of the prophet Ahmose inside the Egyptian Court of the Neue Museum after smeared with a liquid in Berlin, Germany.

UK police recover stolen Ming dynasty vase worth $3 million

LONDON (AP)—British police say they have recovered a 15th-century Chinese vase valued at 2.5 million pounds ($3.3 million) that was stolen in Switzerland last year.

The Metropolitan Police force said Friday that they have arrested two men over the theft of the Ming dynasty vase. It is thought to have been stolen from a Swiss collection in June 2019 by a London-based organized crime gang.

The suspects, aged 44 and 42, were arrested in London's tony Mayfair area last week on suspicion of handling stolen goods. They have been released on bail until mid-November.

AP

This undated photo provided by the Metropolitan Police shows a stolen 15th century Chinese Ming Dynasty vase that was recovered by the Metropolitan Police during a Specialist Crime operation.

"This is a significant step forward in what remains a complex investigation into a high-value burglary," said Detective Chief Inspector Jimi Tele of the force's specialist crime unit.

There is a lucrative illegal market for stolen Chinese antiquities, and there have been several high-profile thefts in recent years, including a string of heists at British museums and auction houses in 2012 that netted jade bowls, figurines and other items worth millions.

British police said the vase will be returned to Switzerland.

Art exhibit in Chadwick Boseman's hometown honors legacy

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—There's a hole in Anderson, South Carolina. It opened suddenly in August when Chadwick Boseman, one of the city's favorite sons and an international star for his role as the Black Panther, died after a quiet battle with cancer at just 43 years old.

Two months later, that void is slowly being stitched together by local artists who picked up their brushes to honor Boseman with a new outdoor art exhibit in downtown Anderson, a city of about 28,000 people.

Local artist Joey Withinarts started painting his take on Boseman's image just hours after the news broke of his passing. His depiction is one of nearly 20 on display in the project sponsored by the city.

"The feeling behind it, words can't even explain, even the way we bring it all together in different styles, it was just something everyone had to see," Withinarts told The Associated Press.

Boseman rose to Hollywood stardom after taking on such iconic roles as Jackie Robinson, who integrated baseball, and the Black Panther. The Marvel superhero movie became one of the top-grossing films in history and he inspired millions with his character's signature "Wakanda forever!" salute.

The accomplished actor never spoke publicly about his battle with colon cancer. He was diagnosed with stage 3 cancer in 2016 and continued working while privately battling "countless surgeries and chemotherapy," his family said in a statement.

Boseman's resolve was awe-inspiring to Dawson.

"He's showing us that no matter what you're going through, whatever you're fighting through, if you love what you love, don't ever give up on your dream," Withenarts told the AP.

The exhibit, which opened to the public Thursday, features nearly twenty local South Carolina artists. The pieces lining the walls of the Wren Pavilion offer different takes on Boseman's life, from his teenage years to his iconic superhero role.

Viewership for 2nd Trump-Biden debate drops to 63 million

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The final presidential debate between President Donald Trump and his Democratic opponent Joe Biden drew 10 million fewer viewers than their first meeting.

An estimated 63 million viewers tuned into the debate featuring Trump and Biden Thursday night, the Nielsen company said Friday. The debate was hosted at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee.

The numbers were tallied between 15 networks that aired the debate.

Fox News scored the most viewers compared to other networks with 14.7 million, according to Nielsen. The network topped ABC and NBC, which both pulled in more than 10 million viewers.

CNN attracted 7.2 million, MSNBC drew 6.7 million and CBS had 5.5 million.

Trump and Biden's first matchup last month was seen by 73.1 million people. The second debate was canceled after Trump's coronavirus infection and replaced by dueling town halls on ABC and NBC—the viewership for both the presidential candidates together was 27.6 million.

Hidden phone used nonstop is hard for colleague to take

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I am unsure how to handle a co-worker who is constantly on their cellphone (hidden between their legs) during their four-hour work shift. I have reminded them to leave their phone in their car since they have a hard time not checking it or texting during work hours. We have spoken several times about this unacceptable behavior, which improves for two days and then reverts back to using their cellphone as usual.

Is this generational acceptable behavior that I am missing? I'm in my mid-50s, and I can live without texting friends and family while I'm supposed to be working, but they seem to need to have their phone in their hands all the time. The manager ignores this behavior, so that's not an avenue I can pursue. Please help.

PEEVED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR PEEVED: Is there a policy in your employee handbook that forbids the use of cellphones during business hours? If there isn't, this may be the reason your manager is ignoring your co-worker's behavior. Because your manager refuses to discourage what the person is doing, you have no choice but to ignore it and concentrate on your own tasks at hand. I only hope that your jobs aren't collaborative, which would impede your productivity.

DEAR ABBY: I need your help. I've been dating a guy for a while now, and our relationship is good EXCEPT for his extreme jealousy. I told him at the beginning of our relationship that I have guy friends, and he was OK with that. Well, I thought he was. It feels like he's trying to control me. I have let friends go because he would assume the worst.

He doesn't want me to have any male friends, but I don't think I should have to give up people I care about to make him happy. He always suspects that I'm cheating. He looks through my phone. He doesn't want me to delete any of my messages. It's like he wants to find something to prove himself right.

LOST GIRL IN THE SOUTH

DEAR LOST GIRL: This "guy's" jealousy is not rooted in love for you. It is a symptom of his own insecurity and not something you can fix for him. You could delete every single male friend from your life, and he would still look for signs that you are cheating.

Your relationship is very unhealthy, both for him and for you. Men like this become increasingly controlling and then move on to become abusers. Please end the relationship before he harms you emotionally or physically.

DEAR ABBY: I live in a triplex. I'm on the second floor, and my son and his wife and three children live on the ground floor. Every Sunday, I have a family dinner with my sons, their children, etc. My daughter-in-law does not come unless her best friend, who is my other daughter-in-law, comes. So three times out of four, her children come with her husband for dinner but not her. I think it sends a bad message to the kids. What do I do?

INCOMPLETE IN CANADA

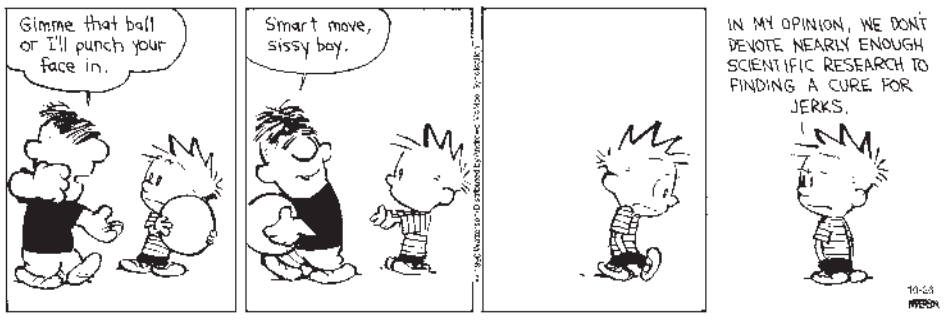
DEAR INCOMPLETE: First you ask this daughter-in-law why she does this. Does she feel she needs a buffer? Then tell her—and your son—what you wrote to me. After that, if nothing changes, drop the subject.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

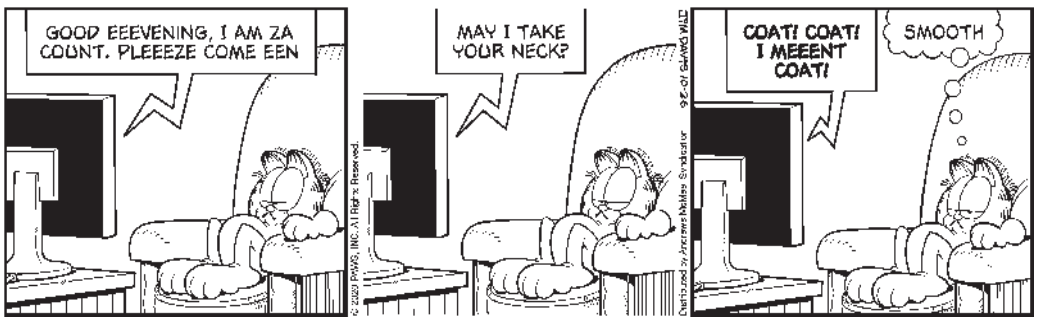
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

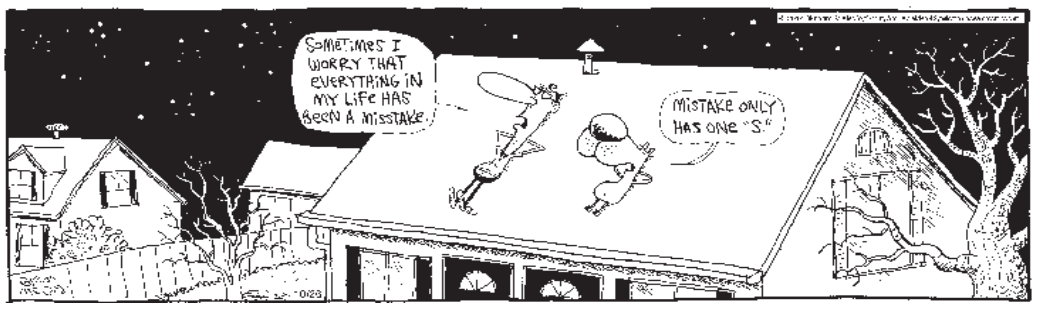


Adam@Home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

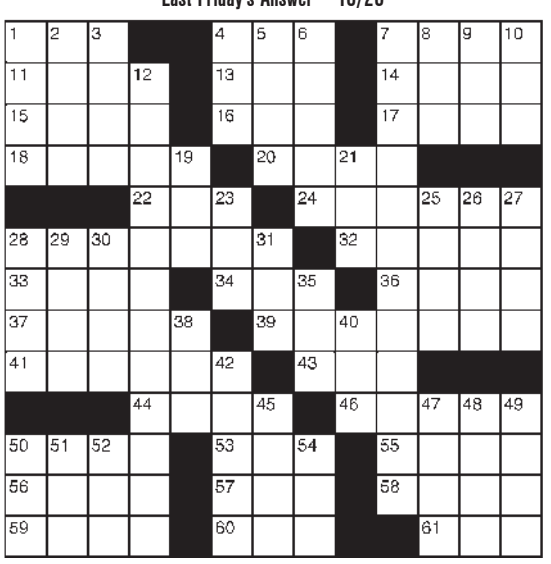
ACROSS
1 Posed for a portrait
4 "It's c-c-cold!"
7 Fire-cracker part
11 Enfold
13 Perfume label word
14 Furniture brand
15 Taj Mahal site
16 Embassy VIP
17 Sala-mander
18 Winter footwear
20 Engine sound
22 Predeter-mine
24 Haystack find
28 Pastoral
32 Ambition
33 Shortly
34 Sticky stuff
36 Andean land
37 Teeny
39 Insists on
41 Places
43 King, in Cannes
44 Ways to the WWW
46 "Have fun!"
50 Writer Didion
53 "Now I get it!"
55 "I did it!"
56 Redact
57 Clear the deck?
58 Epidermis
59 Turner and Danson
60 Filming site
61 "A mouse!"

DOWN
1 Clear the deck?
2 Golden Fleece ship
3 Poi base
4 Actress Arthur
5 Wheel-chair access
6 Apply, as lotion
7 Makes "digital" art, in a way
8 Guitar's kin
9 Stitch
10 "Mangia!"
12 Protective guardians
19 Part of RSVP
21 Actor Beatty
23 Showbiz job
25 TV chef Paula
26 Cooking fat
27 Flightless birds
28 Ms. Streisand, to fans
29 Military group
30 Doves' home
31 New England cape
35 Not 'neath
38 QB's stats
40 "The Simpsons" bartender
42 Bombards with junk emails
45 Pump, e.g.
47 Actor Gyllen-haal
48 "Garfield" dog
49 Tug
50 Lustrous black
51 Praise in verse
52 Succor
54 Suitable

Solution time: 26 mins.

I	U	M	O	R	■	M	V	P	■	A	R	S
A	N	I	S	E	■	I	A	M	■	L	I	U
M	I	S	H	A	■	M	I	S	S	I	V	E
■	■	S	A	M	S	O	N	■	C	B	E	R
I	C	Y	■	S	O	S	■	C	H	I	T	S
M	C	O	R	■	C	A	R	O	L	■	■	■
S	Q	J	E	A	K	■	E	X	E	M	P	T
■	■	■	N	A	S	A	L	■	P	I	T	A
A	C	R	E	S	■	D	I	M	■	S	A	G
C	H	O	W	■	S	A	T	■	N	S	■	■
M	I	S	S	I	N	G	■	M	O	O	D	S
C	_	I	■	M	O	C	■	_	_	U	D	C
S	E	N	■	P	B	S	■	C	E	T	E	R

Last Friday's Answer 10/26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Seth MacFarlane, 47; Cary Elwes, 58; James Pickens Jr., 66; Pat Sajak, 74.

Happy Birthday: Consider what makes you happy, and adjust your living space to fit your needs. Change doesn't have to be drastic; it has to ease your mind. Comfort and convenience will be essential if you want to be productive and reach your objective. Good fortune is within reach; all you have to do is make the necessary moves to encourage personal growth. Your numbers are 7, 18, 21, 28, 34, 36, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep tight-lipped when dealing with anyone prying into your affairs. Don't let compliments go to your head or encourage you to trust someone you don't know well. Less time talking and more time getting things done is favored. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Set the stage for success. Pay attention to details and present what you have to offer with clarity and confidence, and you'll get a good response from someone who counts. Don't feel pressured to act fast; time is on your side. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Knowing what you want and getting it will take ingenuity and transparency. Keep an open mind, but be sure to question anything that contradicts your beliefs. You don't have to agree with someone to get along. Be willing to meet halfway. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't disrupt matters by getting into a spat with someone who has his or her own agenda. You'll get the freedom to do your own thing if you let others do as they please. Personal growth is encouraged. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Emotions can ruin possibilities. Be a good listener, channel your energy into something constructive and refrain from getting upset by what others do. Be accountable for your actions, and protect what you have worked so hard to acquire. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Your emotions won't lead you astray. Nurture meaningful relationships, and make adjustments that will make life better for you and those you love. How you treat others will determine how much help you receive when you need support. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You know which way is up. Don't get thrust into something that doesn't suit you in order to accommodate someone or avoid unpleasantries. It's essential to stand up for what you want and to be responsible for what happens. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A discussion will highlight what will give you peace of mind. A unique idea, coupled with moderation and expertise, will lead to an operative mindset that encourages you to reach your destination in good time. Romance and self-improvement are favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Step outside your comfort zone if someone puts you on the spot. Be honest and willing to walk away from a situation that makes you feel bad. Choose to make your life better. Concentrate on fitness, health and happiness. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't get angry; get moving. Let whatever situation you face energize you to get up and do what makes you feel good. Avoid circumstances that are risky or dangerous. Look at the facts, practice social distancing and avoid disruptive situations. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Let go of the past before it becomes a burden. Pour your energy into living life your way. Lower your overhead if it will put your mind at ease. Good fortune will be yours when you do what's best for you. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You'll have plenty of ideas, but trying to do everything will be futile. Don't be a jack-of-all-trades and master of none. Concentrate on what you enjoy doing most and give it your all. Build success on a solid foundation. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are unique, reliable and passionate. You are intelligent and persuasive.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		9		1		4		
		7		5				3
3	5	4	7			8		
		2		9				8
	8			6			5	
7			3			2		
		6			8	7	2	5
5				2		9		
	4		9			1		

Difficulty Level ★ 10/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

4	5	6	1	9	7	2	8	3
9	2	7	3	8	5	4	1	6
1	8	3	4	6	2	9	7	5
5	6	1	8	2	9	7	3	4
8	4	9	7	5	3	6	2	1
3	7	2	6	1	4	5	9	8
2	9	8	5	4	1	3	6	7
7	1	4	9	3	6	8	5	2
6	3	5	2	7	8	1	4	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CHADWICK BOSEMAN (1976-2020) Solution: 12 letters

D	T	A	N	I	L	O	R	A	C	H	T	U	O	S
S	L	C	E	D	I	R	E	A	J	A	C	K	I	E
T	S	I	H	O	O	R	R	E	M	B	Ⓖ	A	R	S
H	E	F	N	A	W	O	I	O	L	E	R	Ⓝ	K	S
G	I	N	I	C	L	T	G	O	L	E	R	O	Ⓘ	I
I	V	O	N	Y	O	L	Y	R	H	Y	K	I	W	Ⓚ
E	O	S	N	E	O	L	A	T	U	C	A	I	C	N
H	M	N	V	E	V	R	N	A	R	H	B	T	P	A
O	A	I	L	O	L	A	E	H	R	O	T	H	P	S
W	R	B	O	E	P	D	E	L	O	O	F	O	U	E
A	S	O	V	K	O	R	E	H	S	J	N	T	N	E
R	H	R	C	S	R	E	G	N	E	V	A	H	O	V
D	A	A	R	T	S	E	G	A	S	S	E	M	T	E
M	L	T	I	O	R	T	E	D	R	A	W	D	E	L
B	L	L	I	V	I	C	A	P	T	A	I	N	G	S

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Aaron, America, Arts, Avengers, Black Panther, Brown, Captain, Carolyn, Choir, Civil, Detroit, Forty-two, Get on Up, Heaven, Heights, Hero, Howard, Jackie, James, John, King, Kisses, Krio, Ledward, Leroy, Levee, Lincoln, Marshall, Marvel, Message, Movies, Ride, Robinson, South Carolina, Spike Lee, Taylor, T'Challa, Thoth, Thurgood

Last Friday's Answer: Vegetables

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Rays walk off for win to even World Series

AP
Tampa Bay Rays' Randy Arozarena touches the home plate for the winning run in Game 4 of the World Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers Saturday, Oct. 24, 2020, in Arlington,

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Brett Phillips squatted on the field crying, and Randy Arozarena was on the ground slapping his hands on home plate.

Tears of joy, smacks of celebration—and a crucial, wild win for the scrappy Tampa Bay Rays.

Light-hitting Phillips delivered a tying single off Kenley Jansen with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning that turned into the game-ending hit when the Los Angeles Dodgers dropped the ball twice, allowing Arozarena to score and lift the Rays to an 8-7 victory Saturday night to even this suddenly dramatic World Series at two games each.

"Golly, what a special moment," Phillips said.

Center fielder Chris Taylor misplayed Phillips' ball in right-center for an error and chased it down while Kevin Kiermaier scored the tying run. Arozarena kept charging around third base but stumbled and fell well before reaching home.

He was able to get up and score when catcher Will Smith looked up too early and missed the relay throw, letting it squirt toward the backstop while Arozarena dived on top of the plate.

"Once I saw Randy slip, I was like 'Aw, shoot, at least we tied it up,' and then he missed the ball," Phillipes said. "I don't know what happened but then he scored. The next thing I know, I'm airplaneing around the outfield and I get dogpiled and here I am."

Jansen came on in the ninth for the Dodgers and struck out Yoshi Tsutsugo before a single by Kiermaier, the longest-tenured Rays player. Arozarena, the rookie who earlier hit his postseason record ninth homer earlier, drew a two-out, full-count walk to set up the wild final play.

A 26-year-old from Seminole, Florida, Phillips was drafted by Houston and played for Milwaukee and Kansas City before Tampa Bay acquired him in August for a minor leaguer. Touted for his outfield defense, he hasn't hit much in the majors, ending the regular season with a career .202 average in 153 games. He had been 0 for 2 in the postseason and hadn't batted since Game 3 of the AL Division Series on Oct. 7.

Phillips was left off the AL Championship Series roster but shined as a cheerleader, writing up phony scouting reports on a clipboard touting Arozarena before dancing against him in battles after the team locked up the AL pennant.

"What a great team effort on this win. It took almost 28 guys," Phillips said. "That's what special about this team. Just all come together, our one goal is to win. We don't rely on one guy. It takes everyone, and man, baseball is fun."

Corey Seager and Justin Turner both had four hits with a solo homer for the Dodgers, who nearly went into Game 5 on Sunday night with a 3-1 series lead. They'll send three-time NL Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw to the mound on regular rest after winning Game 1 on Tuesday night.

Hunter Renfroe, Brandon Lowe and Kiermaier also homered for the Rays, who had gotten all of their runs on long balls until that last play. All their previous runs came during a frantic stretch when the teams combined to score in eight consecutive half-innings, a first in World Series history.

A solo homer by Kiermaier, the Rays' lonest-tenured player since 2013, tied the game at 6 in the seventh, right after the first two lead changes in this entire World Series.

Lowe went the opposite way for the third time in this Series, his three-run homer to left in the bottom of the sixth putting the Rays up 5-4. A half-inning later, the second baseman was laying facedown in short right field after his diving attempt to catch pinch-hitter Joc Pederson's liner, which skimmed off the top of his glove for a two-run single that put LA back ahead.

That was the first go-ahead pinch-hit in the World Series for the Dodgers since Kirk Gibson's game-ending homer in Game 1 of the 1988 World Series.

Turner became the first player to homer in the first inning of consecutive World Series games. His drive to straightaway center was his 12th career postseason homer, breaking a tie with Hall of Fame center fielder Duke Snider for the most in franchise history. Seager later matched Snider at 11, his homer in the third being his eighth this postseason to match the MLB record for all of an inning.

When Arozarena went deep, that left Seager tied with Nelson Cruz, Carlos Beltran and Barry Bonds for the second-most.

Antonio Brown agrees to 1-year deal with Bucs

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Suspended receiver Antonio Brown has agreed to return to the NFL with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on a one-year deal, according to a person with knowledge of the move.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Saturday because the contract had not been completed.

The addition of the volatile seven-time Pro Bowl selection bolsters an already formidable arsenal of playmakers for Tom Brady.

Brown, who's nearing the end of an eight-game suspension for violating the league's personal conduct penalty, is eligible to return in Week 9, when the first-place Bucs (4-2) host the NFC South rival New Orleans Saints.

Brown, 32, is the latest high-profile addition around Brady, who signed with Tampa Bay in free agency this year after a historic 20-season run in New England that included nine Super Bowl appearances and six titles.

Tight end Rob Gronkowski and running backs Leonard Fournette and LeSean McCoy have also joined Brady in Tampa Bay, which hasn't made the playoffs since 2007.

Brown is reuniting with the 43-year-old quarterback after playing one game with Brady during a brief stint with the Patriots in September 2019.

In 131 regular-season games—all but one with Pittsburgh—Brown has 841 career receptions for 11,263 yards and 75 touchdowns. He had 104 catches for 1,297 yards and a league-leading 15 TDs in 2018, his last year with the Steelers.

The 32-year-old's streak with six consecutive seasons with at least 100 catches and 1,000 yards receiving came to a screeching halt when he forced his way out of Pittsburgh and then almost immediately fell out of favor in Oakland, which acquired him in a trade in March 2019.

The impending signing comes more than six months after coach Bruce Arians declared adding Brown to a group of talented young receivers, including Pro Bowl selections Mike Evans and Chris Godwin, was "not gonna happen."

But with injuries to Evans (ankle), Godwin (hamstring) and Scotty Miller (hamstring/groin) limiting the amount of time Brady has had to work with his top receivers in practice and games, adding Brown provides Brady with another proven playmaker.

Arians was Pittsburgh's offensive coordinator when the Steelers drafted Brown in the sixth round in 2010.

Brown signed with New England after a tumultuous short stay with Oakland ended with the receiver demanding and being granted his release during training camp.

By that time, the Raiders had voided guaranteed money in the receiver's contract after his eventful summer with the team began with Brown, among other things, missing a number of practices because of frost-bitten feet attributed to not wearing proper footwear during a cryotherapy session.

The receiver also tangled with the NFL and threatened to retire if forced to wear a new helmet. He later was fined by the Raiders for what the team said were unexcused absences during camp.

Battle of unbeaten teams

There are two undefeated teams remaining in the AFC, and barring a tie, only one will be left standing after this showdown. This is the type of game that will tell us a ton about both teams.

The Steelers boast arguably the league's best defense, and their offense looks good these days, too. A win over the Titans, who boast one of the league's best rushing attacks, will likely be enough to start getting them mentioned as a legitimate Super Bowl contender.

The Titans need a win like this to do the same, even though they made it to the AFC championship game last season. Tennessee's defense has been iffy this season, and it'll need to tighten up if it wants to beat Baltimore or Kansas City in January. The first step toward that could come with a strong showing this weekend against a complete Steelers offense.

One way or another, someone is coming out of this game firmly established as a Super Bowl favorite in the AFC. That alone makes this one a must-watch event.

There is also an intriguing quarterback story inside this one, too. To very little fanfare, Ben Roethlisberger is off to one of the best five-game starts of his Hall of Fame-worthy career. Then there's Ryan Tannehill, who could shoehorn his way into the MVP conversation this season with a big game in this one. In his past 18 starts, Tannehill has an amazing identical stat comparison to Patrick Mahomes. In that span, both have put up 40 passing touchdowns, eight interceptions and six rushing touchdowns. These days, Tannehill is worth the price of admission.

No McGregor rematch as Khabib retires

Khabib Nurmagomedov, right, hits Justin Gaethje during the first round of their lightweight bout in the UFC 254 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. AP

ABU DHABI (AP)—Unbeaten lightweight champion Khabib Nurmagomedov retired from mixed martial arts after stopping Justin Gaethje with a triangle choke early in the second round at UFC 254 on Saturday night.

Nurmagomedov (29-0) made the announcement immediately after he impressively finished his first fight since the death of his father and lifelong coach in July. Abdulmanap Nurmagomedov had a heart problem exacerbated by COVID-19, and his son was overcome by tears in the cage moments after choking Gaethje unconscious 1:34 into the second round of his third UFC title defense.

"This is my last fight," Nurmagomedov said. "There's no way I'm going to be back without my father. I spoke to my mother. She does not know how I fight without father, but I promised it's going to be my last fight, and if I give my word, I have to follow it."

The 32-year-old Nurmagomedov was active with strikes and with grappling against Gaethje (22-3), the dangerous brawler who had knocked out four consecutive elite opponents while winning the UFC's interim lightweight title.

After spending the first round largely trading punches and kicks with the aggressive Gaethje, Nurmagomedov used his unparalleled wrestling skills to take down Gaethje early in the second round and then worked into position for the finishing choke.

Gaethje appeared to tap out at least twice before the referee noticed and stopped the bout, by which time Gaethje was unconscious. He bounced up quickly and shared a moment of mutual respect with the dominant Russian champion.

"I know he was in a bad spot, but whether he was or not, he did what he needed to do," Gaethje said. "I know his father is so proud."

Also at UFC 254, former middleweight champion Robert Whittaker made his case for another title shot with a solid unanimous decision over fellow contender Jared Cannonier in the penultimate bout on Fight Island.

Nurmagomedov's first fight in 13 months would be an appropriate farewell for one of the most dynamic competitors in recent MMA history. The Dagestan-born grappling specialist developed a well-rounded game under the tutelage of his father and a Bay Area-based MMA gym, culminating in his ascent to the UFC title in 2018.

Nurmagomedov stopped Conor McGregor and Dustin Poirier in his next two bouts before his yearlong absence from competition. His victory over McGregor made him one of the world's most famous combat sports athletes, and the UFC scheduled this pay-per-view show at an earlier-than-normal time to cater to his vast fan base in Russia and Europe.

But Nurmagomedov has spoken of retirement before, and his announcement confirmed he is finished with the sport after running through most of the UFC lightweight division.

"Dustin and Conor are going to fight in January," Nurmagomedov said, referring to the probable meeting between the former contenders at UFC 257. "I choked them both out. I'm not interested in this."

Earlier, Whittaker (22-5) gave a disciplined, active performance with impressive striking to earn his second straight UFC victory since losing his title to Israel Adesanya in late 2019.

Capping his effort by dropping Cannonier with a combination midway through the final round, Whittaker won two of three rounds on every scorecard while soundly outstriking Cannonier (13-5), who took his first loss in nearly 2 1/2 years.

Whittaker likely earned a chance at a rematch with Adesanya with the victory, but he didn't call out the champion after his bout, instead expressing only excitement about returning home to put up his family's Christmas tree. Whittaker withdrew from a bout with Cannonier scheduled for March in Las Vegas because he felt burned out on MMA.

"I'm very happy it's all over," Whittaker said. "We got the result we wanted. Work's done, baby. I'm coming home."

Earlier in the show, Russian heavyweight Alexander Volkov stopped Walt Harris with a kick to the chest and punches on the ground 1:15 into the second round. Flyweight Lauren Murphy also bolstered her case for a title shot with a second-round stoppage of Liliya Shakirova by rear naked choke for her fourth straight victory.

UFC 254 was the last of five shows in a month inside the promotion's secure bubble on Yas Island. The UFC, which paused competition for only eight weeks early in the coronavirus pandemic, returns to its hometown next week to begin a series of at least five consecutive shows on its corporate campus in Las Vegas

Thomas keeps lead; no title defense for Woods

CALIFORNIA (AP)—With one good break and two good putts, Justin Thomas felt much better about his round of 5-under 67 on Saturday that gave him a one-shot lead over Jon Rahm in the Zozo Championship at Sherwood.

Thomas, who trailed by as many as two shots on the back nine, hit driver on the par-5 16th that clanged off a sycamore tree and dropped into the rough instead of he creek. He holed a 10-foot birdie putt to tie for the lead, and then followed with a 30-foot birdie putt up the slope on the par-3 17th.

Rahm finished some two hours earlier with a 63, which he figured at least would get him close to the lead and nearly kept him at the top until Thomas finished strong.

Lanto Griffin was leading the Nos. 2 and 3 players in the world until making two bogeys over the last four holes, one in the water on the par-3 15th, the other by going rough-to-rough on the closing hole.

Thomas was at 19-under 197 in another week of low scoring on the PGA Tour, at least for most players. It was another grind for Tiger Woods, the Zozo Championship winner last year in Japan, who could only manage a 71.

That led to what figures to be the greatest illustration of the strange times brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Woods will be playing the final round with Phil Mickelson, the top two attractions in golf, and there won't be any fans on the course to watch them.

Mickelson opened with seven birdies in eight holes, and played the rest of the way in 2 over for a 67.

It will be the ninth time they play together in the final round on the PGA Tour, and the first time they have no bearing on the outcome. They were 16 shots out of the lead. The first time they played together on a Sunday was at the 1997 PGA Championship when they were eight shots behind and each shot 75.

Woods will not defend his Zozo Championship title. He basically took himself out of contention through nine holes on Thursday. The 83rd PGA Tour title that would set the all-time record would be pursued another time.

But he will get a final-day pairing with Phil Mickelson, meaning the two golf legends will play in the same group for the 38th time in their careers. Mickelson will tie Ernie Els for the most of any player to be grouped with Woods.

The downside, of course, is that both players are well out of contention. In fact, they will be on the opposite side of the course from the leaders, teeing off on the back nine.

Two rounds in the 70s, including the opening-day 76, has Woods in a tie for 68th, way out of contention. He came in with hopes of at least getting into contention so that he could feel what it's like. Not since last year's Presidents Cup at Royal Melbourne has Woods played with any kind of authority. He tied for ninth at the Farmers Insurance Open but was not a final-day contender. Since then, it has been a series of disappointments.

Perhaps the best thing to take out of this week for Woods is his health. He looks the best he has since the restart; he has played in six tournaments now since the sport came back from its hiatus because of the coronavirus pandemic. Woods is moving around nicely, swinging freely, hitting plenty of good shots. Just not enough to contend on a golf course where par is more like 68.

Meanwhile, Thomas will go for victory No. 14

At age 27, Thomas is already on the verge of a Hall of Fame career. He has won a major championship, the 2017 PGA Championship. And he has already won 13 PGA Tour events, including two in 2020, the last coming at the WGC-FedEx St. Jude.

He also tied for eighth at the U.S. Open and tied for the third-lowest total score at the Tour Championship. He leads by one over Rahm.

Thomas considered it a so-so day on Saturday until he birdied the last two holes to shoot 67 and move to the top of the leaderboard.

"It was a good fight, hung in there well," Thomas said. "I felt like I definitely didn't play as well as I did the first two days or didn't have my best stuff by any means, but to shoot a round like that is huge on a course like this. Usually I'm grinding to shoot a 1, 2, 3 under, but here at Sherwood the scores are very low and you need to be able to, as crazy as it is, shoot 5 under to keep pace."

Thomas has a 54-hole lead or co-lead for the 14th time in his career but has to contend with Rahm, who has won twice since the restart and briefly held the No. 1 spot in the world.

NBA targeting Dec. 22 start date for new season

NEW YORK—The NBA is targeting a 2020-21 season start date of Dec. 22, according to The Athletic's Shams Charania.

The league office reportedly informed its Board of Governors on Friday that it intends to schedule a 72-game season, beginning three days before Christmas and ending prior to the 2021 Olympics in late July.

The NBA is in favor of a play-in tournament for the final playoff seeds, per Charania. The league tested a play-in series during the 2019-20 season restart, and the eighth-place Portland Trail Blazers defeated the ninth-place Memphis Grizzlies for the right to face the top-seeded Los Angeles Lakers in the first round.

The start date would need to be confirmed by the National Basketball Players Association. According to ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski, discussions between the owners and players' union are ongoing. The Lakers eliminated the Miami Heat on Oct. 11, leaving just 72 days between seasons if Dec. 22 is confirmed.

The NBA prefers in-market games, and there was some belief that a later start date in 2021 might allow for more cities capable of putting fans in the stands and maximizing revenue. The reality that the coronavirus pandemic will impact the 2020-21 season appears to have shifted the focus to returning to a normal schedule in 2021-22. A Dec. 22 start would allow for the customary October start to the following season.

AP
Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (23) takes a shot over Miami Heat's Kelly Olynyk (9) during the second half in Game 6 of the NBA Finals Sunday, Oct. 11, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Virtual draft

The NBA draft is officially set.

The draft, which had already been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will now be held virtually on Nov. 18, ESPN and the league announced on Thursday.

ESPN will broadcast the draft live that night, and both commissioner Adam Silver and deputy commissioner Mark Tatum will be in ESPN studios at Bristol, Connecticut, to announce the picks.

Top players are expected to join the draft virtually.

Silver had initially hoped to start the 2020-21 season around Dec. 1, though he said last month that his "best guess" is that the season won't start until at least January.

The Los Angeles Lakers won the NBA Finals on Oct. 11. The draft will take place five weeks after last season officially wrapped up.

The initial goal was to have about a seven-week offseason, but Silver wants to play a standard 82-game season next year in front of fans at teams' respective arenas. Figuring out how to do that—especially with coronavirus cases spiking in the United States again — is something the league is still working toward.

Stoudemire to join Nets coaching staff

The two pillars of the "Seven Seconds or Less" Phoenix Suns are reportedly reuniting. As coaches.

Former NBA All-Star Amar'e Stoudemire is joining the Brooklyn Nets coaching staff as an assistant. Stoudemire's role will reportedly focus on player development.

The hire reunites Stoudemire with Nets head coach Steve Nash, who played alongside the big man for six seasons in Phoenix. One of their teammates for two seasons on those Suns: current Nets general manager Sean Marks.

Stoudemire's last NBA appearance came in the 2015-16 season with the Miami Heat, and has since played overseas and the BIG3 league. Like Nash, this will be Stoudemire's first full-time coaching role at any level.

Together, under head coach Mike D'Antoni, Nash and Stoudemire powered an uptempo, borderline unstoppable offense that led the NBA in scoring in all but one of their seasons together. Stoudemire posted 23.2 points and 9.0 rebounds per game in those seasons, while Nash averaged 17.9 points and 10.9 assists, twice winning MVP.

Elements of that offense can be seen all over today's NBA, but it remains to be seen what Nash plans to do with Kevin Durant, Kyrie Irving and the rest of the Nets.

"Stylistically, it's to be determined," said Nash in his virtual conference call from HSS Center Wednesday. "Obviously, one of the most important things is to start on the defensive end, be strong in defensive transition and in the half-court. And on offense, for our team we have a talented group, we definitely want to use the talent, speed, athleticism, versatility of our players that're able to make plays for each other.

"The skill is profound in our roster, and we want to put them in a position where they can express themselves and in a way where they can be very difficult to cover, make teams make a lot of decisions and potentially a lot of mistakes and make them difficult to guard. That's still a work in progress."

Stoudemire joins a coaching staff that also includes former Nets interim head coach Jacques Vaughn. D'Antoni himself, assuming he doesn't find a head coaching job after his Houston Rockets exit, is reportedly another possible addition, according to SiriusXM's Frank Isola.

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up a co-ed team, while the U14 (middle school) and U18 (high school) categories have separate races for girls and boys.

The qualifying races for the elementary division will be held on Nov. 6, 13, and 20, with schools divided into groups to avoid crowding at the CPA Airport Field. Saipan International School is grouped with Brilliant Star School, Koblerville Elementary School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, and Saipan Community School, while Agape Christian School is with San Vicente, Kagan, Mt. Carmel School, and Isla Montessori.

The middle school and high school qualifiers are scheduled for Nov. 7, 14, and 21 and schools will also be put in small groups for safety measures. SIS will compete against Agape, Marianas High School, and Mt. Carmel in the U18 girls division, followed by the boys group. For the middle school division, it will be SIS, Agape, Francisco M. Sablan, Hopwood Middle School, Mt. Carmel, and SCS runners in the girls race first before the boys contest.

Runners who will make the grade in the series of qualifiers will advance to the 2020-2021 Public School System/ Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Championships set for Dec. 4 (elementary) and Dec. 5 (high school and middle school).

Team title and individual honors will be at stake in the finale with only the times of Top 4 finishers from each school to be considered in determining the winners in the three age groups. Rota and Tinian runners are also invited in the championship race and must turn in their roster no later than Nov. 24.

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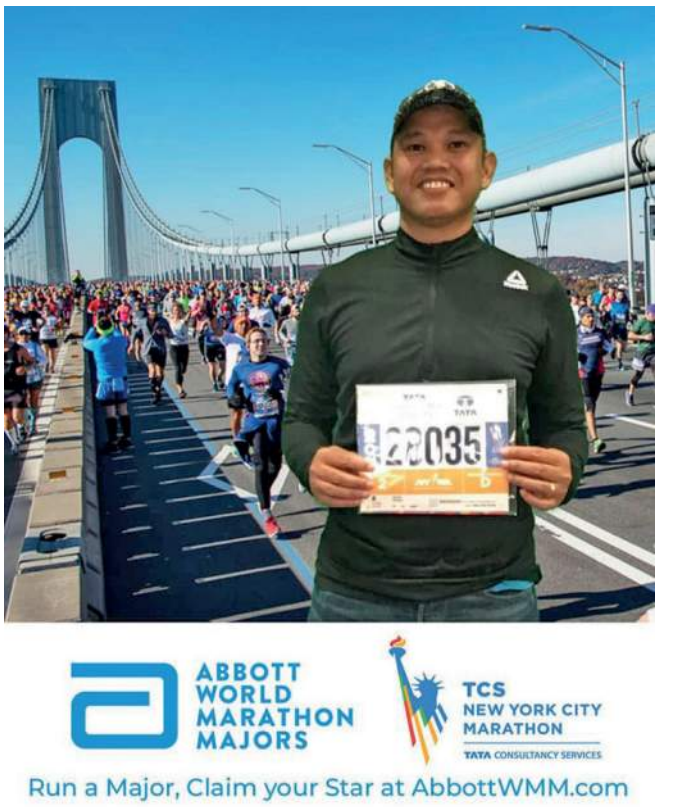
Meanwhile, Soriano said the virtual NYC Marathon has its pros and cons, but the former outweighs the latter, as she is determined to continue her passion for running amidst the pandemic.

"Unlike our local marathons, you have to keep track of your own time, safety, nutrition, and hydration with the virtual NYC Marathon. However, this virtual run gives us the opportunity to try and get our personal best time without the pressure of competition. We will be racing without the support from the crowd, but with the encouragement from my friends Jean Bernardo and Jerin Alladin, I believe that their presence is more than enough than any loud cheers. I will not let COVID-19 stop me from joining races," said Soriano, whose target finish time is between five and six hours.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rommel Buenaflor poses with his bib number during last year's New York City Marathon.

Rays walk off for win to even World Series

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No McGregor rematch as Khabib retires

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Chang Whan Jang is among the six Saipan runners joining the virtual 2020 New York City Marathon.

6 Saipan runners to join NYC Marathon

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Five first-timers and one repeat participant from Saipan will race in the New York City Marathon.

Dubbed as the largest marathon in the world (record 98,247 runners in 2017 and 53,508 finishers in 2019), the NYC Marathon is going ahead with its 50th-anniversary race despite the COVID-19 pandemic, as this year's event will be held virtually. Participants will run 26.2 miles (42.19K) and they can do it at any course from Oct. 17 to Nov. 1. Though runners have two weeks to complete the race, they must meet the required distance in one session.

Saipan runners Rommel Buenaflor, Malou Carlos, Matt Sitchon, Taro Goto, Chang Whan Jang, and Roxanne Soriano are planning to take on the challenge this weekend and use the Saipan Marathon route.

"This is a great opportunity to be a part of the prestigious New York Marathon, especially the event is celebrating its golden anniversary this year, so this is big and this is also my first time to do a full marathon," Soriano said.

While Soriano will debut in the NYC Marathon, Buenaflor will be doing his second race in the event considered as one of the World Marathon Majors. He completed the course that covered the five boroughs of the Big Apple in 2019.

Buenaflor said they did a pace run last weekend and have been doing their regular runs the past months to get ready for the virtual event. He will do his best to finish the NYC Marathon again, but hopes to have another chance of taking on the actual course and wishes the same for other Saipan runners.

"It's one of the hardest marathons in the world, but the experience is definitely worth it," Buenaflor said.

Sitchon, on the other hand, tried completing the distance last weekend, but stopped at the 25K mark due to cramps. The sexagenarian added that for long distance event like marathon, he needs to train for 35K plus running at least two times a week to get into top shape. He will try again this weekend and aims to surpass his personal best (5:01:00).

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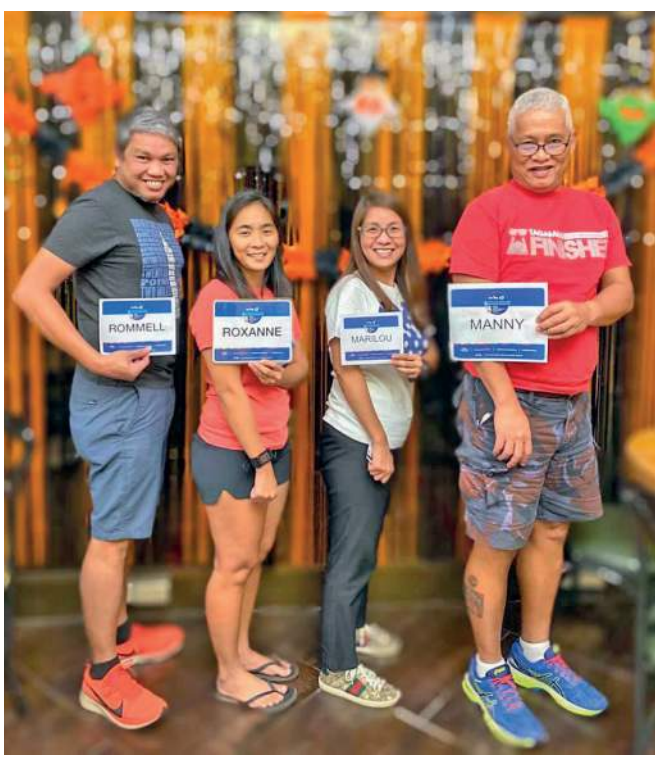

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Form left, Rommel Buenaflor, Roxanne Soriano, Malou Carlos, and Manny Sitchon pose for a photo after getting their race participant certificate for the virtual 2020 New York City Marathon.

Nov. 2 deadline for cross country entries

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Schools participating in the 2020-2021 Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series have until Nov. 2 to submit their entries per age groups.

The Nov. 2 deadline applies to the six qualifying races next month, as Nick Gross, director of the PSS Student Support Services Athletic Program, wanted the early distribution of the runners' bib numbers to minimize, if not avoid personal interaction during the races and follow the safety measures in place against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Schools are allowed to enter a maximum of six students in every race per age group plus one alternate. The elementary division covers the U11 age group and schools can sign

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Elementary school students head to the finish line during last year's Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series at the Saipan Country Club.